Cerberus
Gantz Waiting Room
Offtopia
ENXAME

ENGLISH
THE SERVANTS
RAW BY FELIX
TRANSLATION BY
JIGUMI AND
GOTTHEIM
CLEANING AND
EDITING BY
MORTEN

table of contents

Prologue 始まりの朝 001
Chapter 1 紅茶の立ち位置 007
Chapter 2 冒険はいつも突然に 044
Chapter 3 親方はいた試 084
Chapter 4 個部屋 104
Chapter 5 公衆 140
Chapter 6 古書店 174

一二印刷　大日本印刷
装画・挿絵　ヨシモト

異国迷路のクロワ古 2

武田日向 Hinata Takeda

KCJ111-3

9784047126091

1920979005808

ISBN978-4-04-712609-1
C0979 ¥580E

定価：本体580円(税別)

発行：富士見書房
発売：角川グループパブリッシング

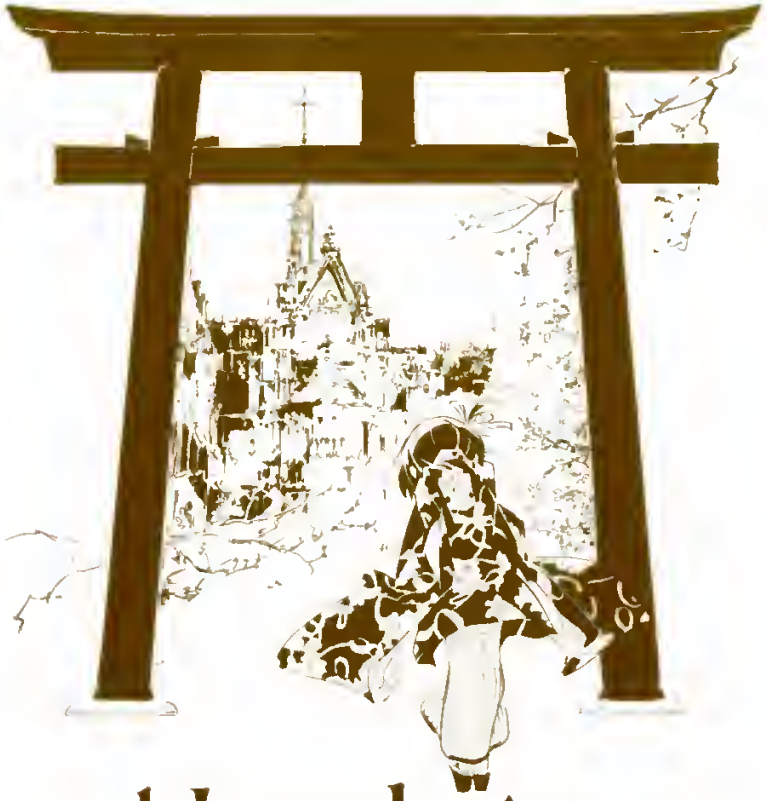
19世紀後半。

ヒロインバハはほぼ全ての女性が着ているような質れ単純にドレスへ着替えた少女。装具は、ハリの下側にあるまるで広告のような着物姿にて働くことになった、元王立クロワ下町のバーカ。少しの知識の入ったのかもしれない、謎多い少女。

異国迷路のクロワ古 2

武田日向 Hinata Takeda

La croisée dans un labyrinthe étranger 2

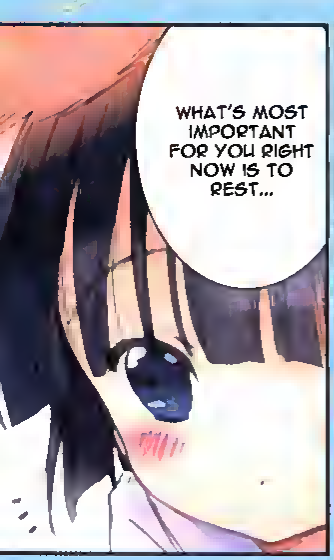


La croisée dans un labyrinthe étranger 2

KCJ111-3

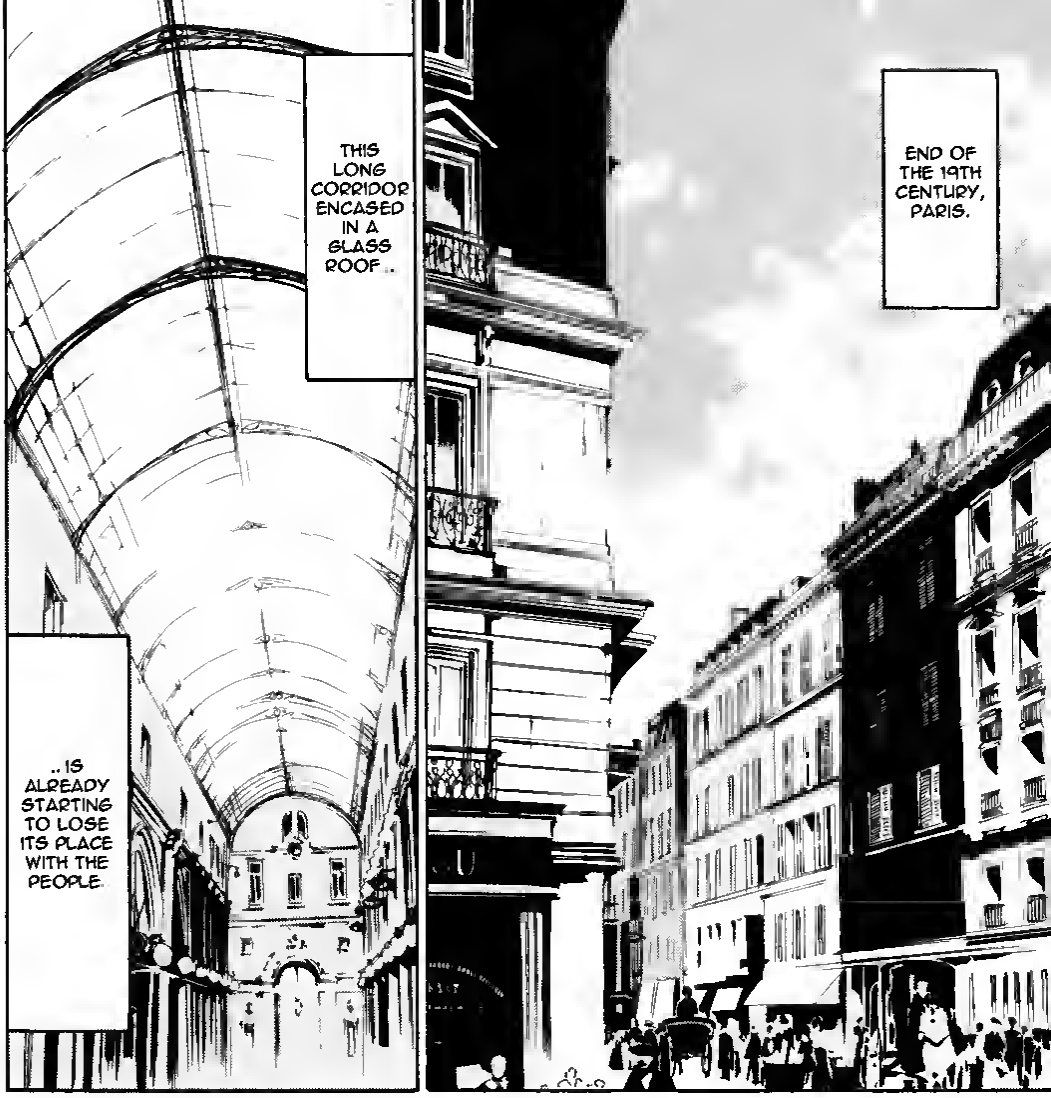
異世界執事のハロワーゼ

Retired:執事



HE SHOULDERED THE WEIGHT I COULDN'T SHOULDER MYSELF...
YOU LEAVE ALL THE WORRYING TO ME
WHAT WOULD WE DO IF IT FLARED UP AGAIN?
FIGURINES DU ROY
THE MAN WHO PROTECTED OUR LITTLE HOME, OUR GALERIE, OUR FAMILY...
...TOILING OVER HIS TINY MASTERPIECES EVERYDAY.
I REMEMBER HIS HANDS, PROTECTING EVERYTHING I KNEW...
EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN MORE ON THE CAUTIOUS SIDE
...I HAD ALL OF THAT TAKEN AWAY FROM ME.
AND ALL BECAUSE OF ONE LITTLE CHILDISH PRANK...

Part: Cat on the Roof


END OF THE 19TH CENTURY, PARIS.
THIS LONG CORRIDOR ENCASED IN A GLASS ROOF..
..IS ALREADY STARTING TO LOSE ITS PLACE WITH THE PEOPLE.

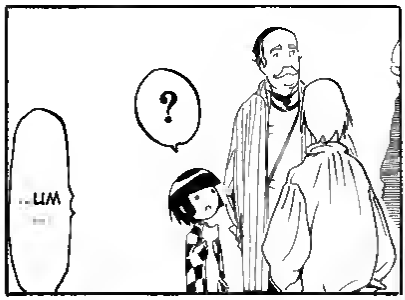
異国迷路のクロワーゼ

AS OF LATE...
...AND PARTI-CULARLY ON THIS LITTLE CORNER OF THE GALERIE DU ROY.
SHOPS LINE BOTH SIDES OF THE WALK-WAY...
...WE FIND A SINGLE PERSON WHO SEEMS A LITTLE OUT OF PLACE...
.. SLOWLY BECOMING THE TALK OF THE GALERIE.
ぽん
HEY, CLAUDE!

HEY?!
WHY ISN'T SHE BEHIND ME?!
KITTEN ..?
...OH, YOU MEAN YUNE?
YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR LITTLE BLACK KITTEN FOLLOWING BEHIND YOU TODAY?
HEY!
I SAW HER TOO. EVERY-ONE'S STARTING TO CROWD AROUND
SHE GOT HELD UP OVER NEAR YANNICK'S PLACE!
CLAUDE!
AH.. CLAUDE-SAMA!
YUNE!
I SWEAR, YOU TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HER FOR ONE SECOND ...
.....!

LOOK, THERE ARE CATS IN PARIS TOO!!
SO HER NAME IS YUNE THEN.
..YANNICK..
PERHAPS A LITTLE AWKWARD, BUT HER FRENCH IS DEFINITELY PASSABLE.
NO...
SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE LONG AT ALL ...
DON'T TEACH HER ANYTHING TOO STRANGE PLEASE.
CLAUDE-SAMA
THEY TOLD ME.
..YOUR FATHER WAS THE ONE WHO DESIGNED THEIR SIGN-BOARD
.....
OH, DON'T MAKE SUCH A FACE.

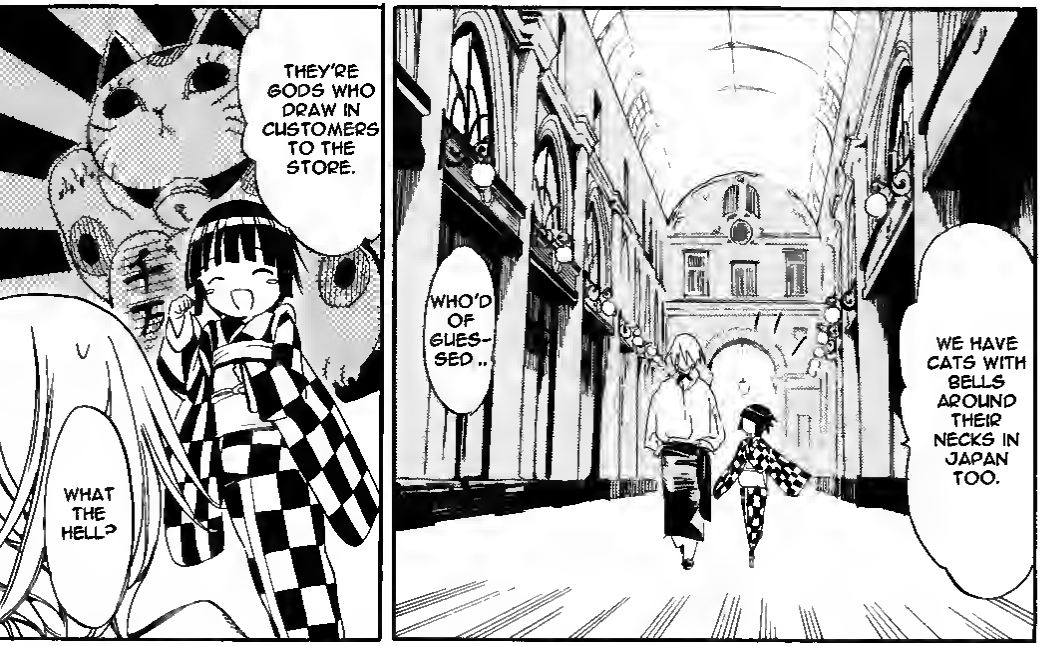
NOT TO MENTION YOUR LOVE OF CATS.
.....


?
..UM

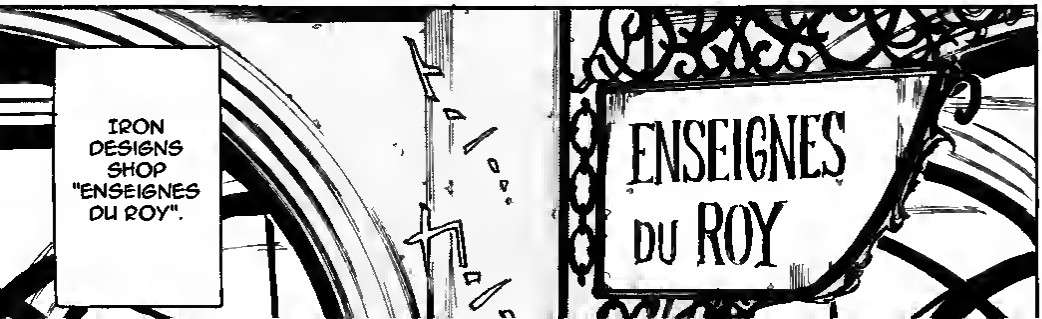
IS THIS THE SAME CAT...
AS THE ONE ON THE SIGN?

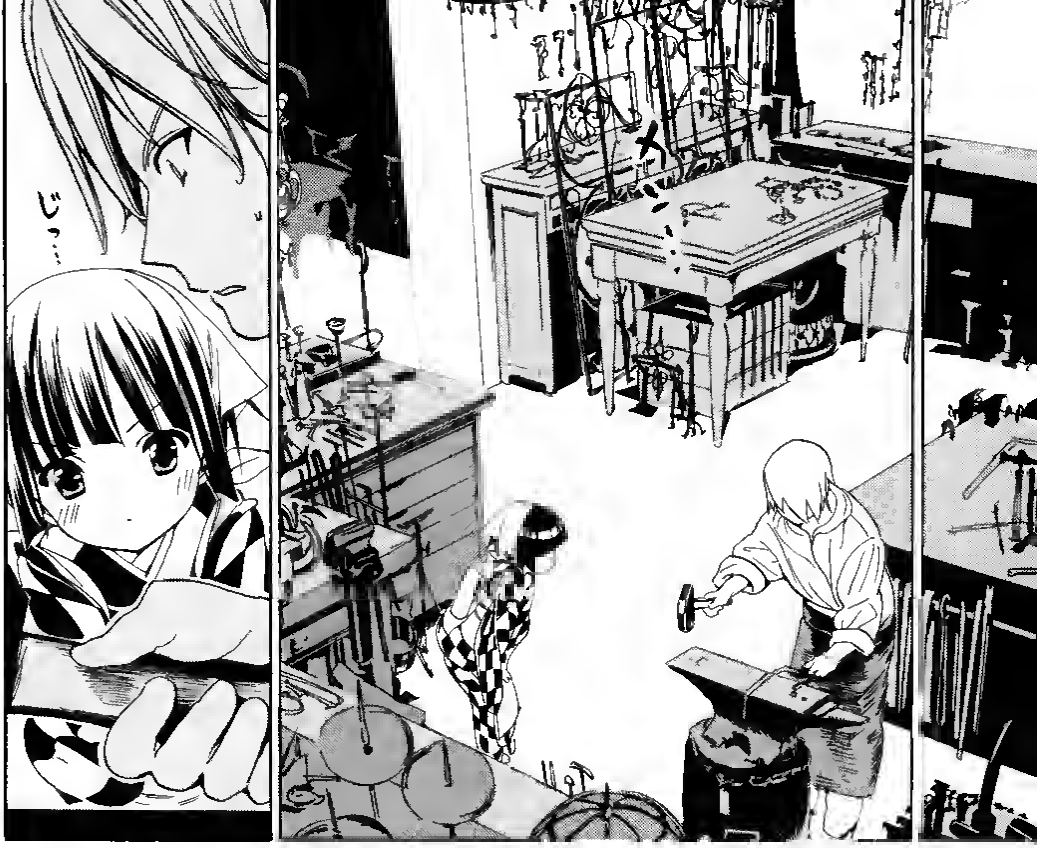
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE THAT SIGNBOARD IS THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME HERE.
!

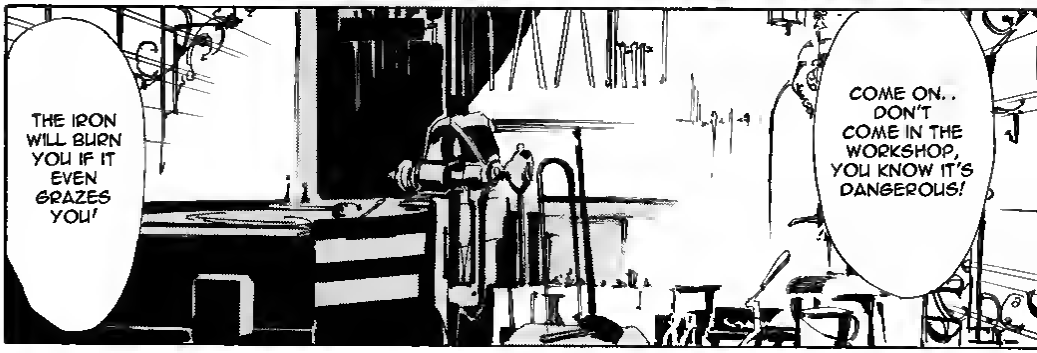
AND SHE HAD A BIG BLUE BELL AROUND HER NECK, JUST LIKE ON THE SIGN
SHE'D ALWAYS RUN OFF AND NOT COME HOME FOR DAYS.
NO, IT WAS A DIFFERENT ONE.

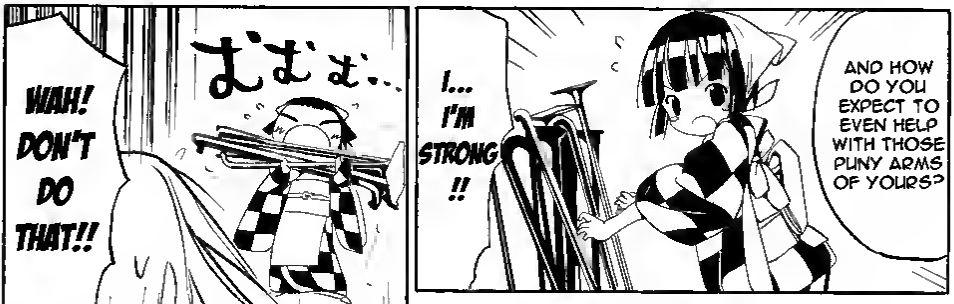

THEY'RE GODS WHO DRAW IN CUSTOMERS TO THE STORE.
WHAT THE HELL?
WHO'D OF GUESSED ..
WE HAVE CATS WITH BELLS AROUND THEIR NECKS IN JAPAN TOO.

TN: YUNE IS TALKING OF "MANEKINEKO" (BECKONING CATS).




じっ…
メニニニ!!


THE IRON WILL BURN YOU IF IT EVEN GRAZES YOU!
COME ON.. DON'T COME IN THE WORKSHOP, YOU KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS!


むむむ…
WAH! DON'T DO THAT!!
I... I'M STRONG !!
AND HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO EVEN HELP WITH THOSE PUNY ARMS OF YOURS?

A LITTLE CLAUDE-SAMA!
!
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS ALWAYS AN ADULT
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, STOP HER!
NO NO...
I WAS JUST REMEM-BERING WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE!
YOU USED TO ALWAYS TRY TO HELP OUT YOUR DAD...
AND THAT WAS IT! END OF STORY!
EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE CLAUDE-SAMA WILL...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
AH!
..I CAN HELP...
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY...
GRAMPS!
.. OR SO HE SAYS. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT LATER YUNE
.....

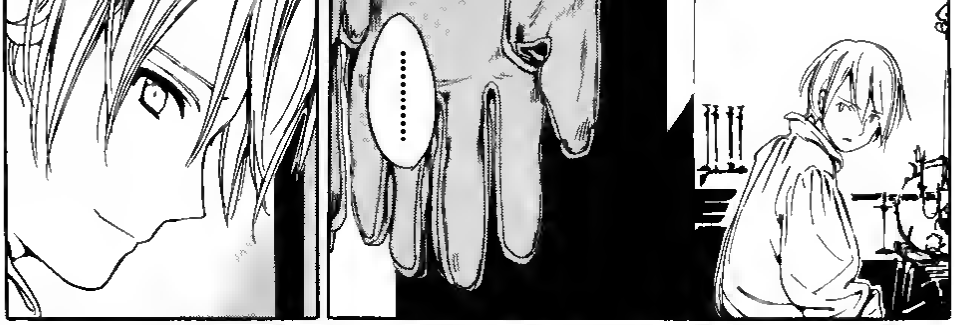
IF I HAVE GLOVES, I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING BURNED...
!!
UM. COULD I MAYBE BORROW THESE?

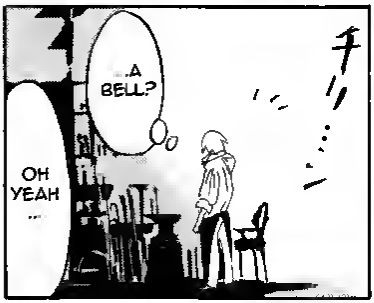
GO OUTSIDE OR SOME-THING!
I-I'M SORRY !!
I'M NOT PLAYING AROUND ANYMORE! GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY!

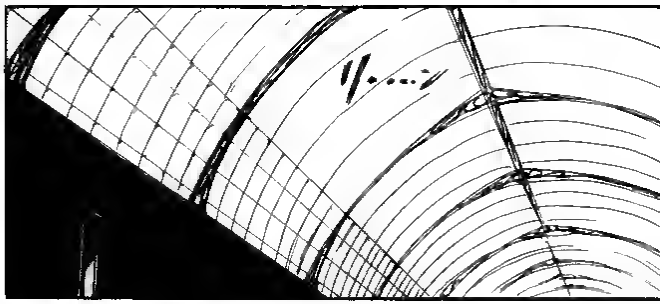
チリリン…
YUNE.
I-I... UH...
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, YUNE.
YOU PROB-ABLY...
...JUST GRABBED THOSE GLOVES BECAUSE THEY WERE THE SMALLEST ONES ON THE RACK, RIGHT?
...YES.
...THOSE GLOVES...

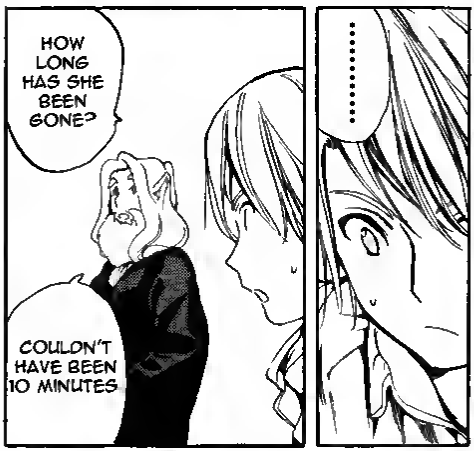
BELONGED TO HIS FATHER...
...JEAN CLAUDEL.
.....!
HE WAS A SMALL MAN.
..AND HE WAS SKILLED...
...AT USING THOSE SMALL HANDS OF HIS TO CREATE THOSE LITTLE DETAILS.
I-I... I DIDN'T..!
IT'S OKAY...
IT'S NOT LIKE HE TREATS THEM PRECIOUSLY EITHER...
.....!

THEY'VE ALWAYS HUNG JUST AS HE LEFT THEM...
NEVER TOUCHED. JUST TAKING UP SPACE THERE.
...
...I ALSO HAD A MESSAGE FROM CLAUDE, IF YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR.
YES.
"I MAY HAVE SAID TO LEAVE ...
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN LEAVE THE GALERIE"
OKAY!

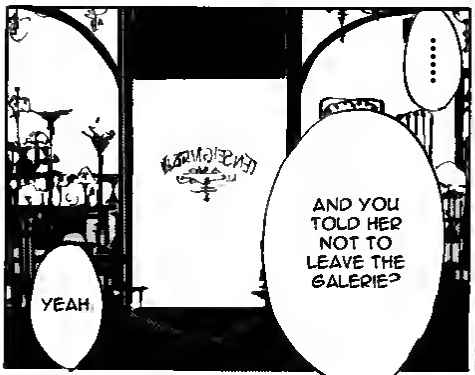



...A BELL?
OH YEAH ...



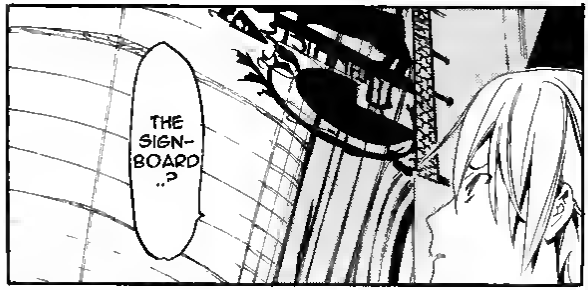

HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN GONE?
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN 10 MINUTES

GRAMPS!
WHERE'S YUNE?
DOING AS SHE WAS TOLD...
...AND TAKING A WALK AROUND THE INSIDE OF THE GALERIE


AND YOU TOLD HER NOT TO LEAVE THE GALERIE?
YEAH

YEAH, THANKS.
.....
..WANT ME TO GO WATCH THE WORKSHOP FIRE FOR YOU?
.....
SHE BETTER STILL BE IN THE GALERIE.
...DAM-NIT!
YANNICK!
!
...OH YEAH!
HOW DOES SHE DISAPPEAR IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE LIKE THIS?

...MAN, I WAS SURE SHE'D BE HERE.
SHE DID STOP AND LOOK AT THE SIGN-BOARD FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BUT THAT WAS IT.


THE SIGN-BOARD..?

DOESN'T SEEM ANY DIFFERENT TO ME...

HELLO, DID YUNE HAPPEN TO STOP BY?
NO...
...BUT SHE PASSED BY NOT LONG AGO.

!!!

YUNE !!!!
WHAT IS SHE THINK-ING?
WHO TOLD HER SHE COULD GO ON TOP OF THE GALERIE?!
SHE'S NOT EVEN OVER HER COLD YET..!

SERIOUSLY! GET BACK OVER HERE ALREADY!
I HEARD A LITTLE BELL...
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ?!
A BELL ..?!
I JUST WANTED TO TAKE HER HOME TO HER MASTER.
I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WAS THAT CAT...
DON'T TELL ME YOU BELIEVED THAT OLD MAN?!
.....!
AH... I'M SORRY!
YUNE !!

LISTEN TO ME! HE WAS ONLY JOKING!
THAT CAT ON THE SIGNBOARD HAS BEEN GONE FOR OVER 10 YEARS NOW!
.....!?
BUT I SWEAR I SAW A CAT THAT KIND OF LOOKED LIKE...
ENOUGH !!
DON'T MOVE FROM THAT SPOT!!
I WISH I COULD STICK A GIANT BELL ON YOU!
THE SECOND YANNICK PUT THE BELL ON THAT CAT...
..IT UP AND BOLTED OUT OF THERE.
IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE THEN.
THAT'S AWFUL...

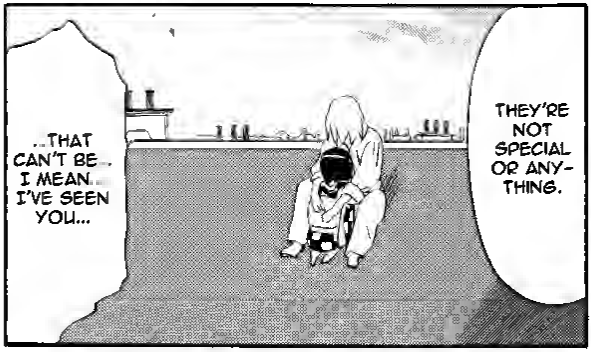
IT'S RATHER IRONIC.
HE PUT THE BELL ON SO THAT HE'D ALWAYS KNOW WHERE SHE WAS, AND ALWAYS BE ABLE TO HAVE HER NEAR.
...I'M SORRY ...
I JUST THOUGHT... MAYBE I COULD BE USEFUL TO THE GALERIE SOME-HOW...
... YUNE !!
JUST STANDING THERE IS SCARY!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER LIKE THIS!!
..BUT NOT BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ON YOUR OWN..
...IS THE SCARIEST OF ALL...
.....

YOUR ONLY JOB...
...IS TO SAFELY STAY WHERE I CAN SEE YOU AT ALL TIMES!
!!!!!!!!!!
IS...
IS THAT ALL I'M GOOD FOR..?
AHHH!
!!
SORRY
I'M OKAY...
DUMMY!
HURRY!

HURRY AND GRAB MY HAND !!
THAT GLASS COULD BREAK ANY SECOND!
"IL-"
TCH!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA...
...WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GRAB HOLD BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN'T DO ANY-THING!!
!
WE'RE ALL THAT WAY, EVEN ME AND GRAMPS!!

YOU CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS TO ME ...
I'M SORRY ...
...I TOUCHED THE GLOVES TOO...
.....?
WHAT DO THE GLOVES HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING?
...I MADE YOU REMEMBER YOUR FATHER ...
.....!
DID GRAMPS TELL YOU THAT?
HE SAID HE HAD SMALL HANDS...
...AND IT'S ALL YOU HAVE LEFT TO REMEMBER HIM BY.

..DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE GLOVES.


THEY'RE NOT SPECIAL OR ANY-THING.
..THAT CAN'T BE.. I MEAN.. I'VE SEEN YOU...

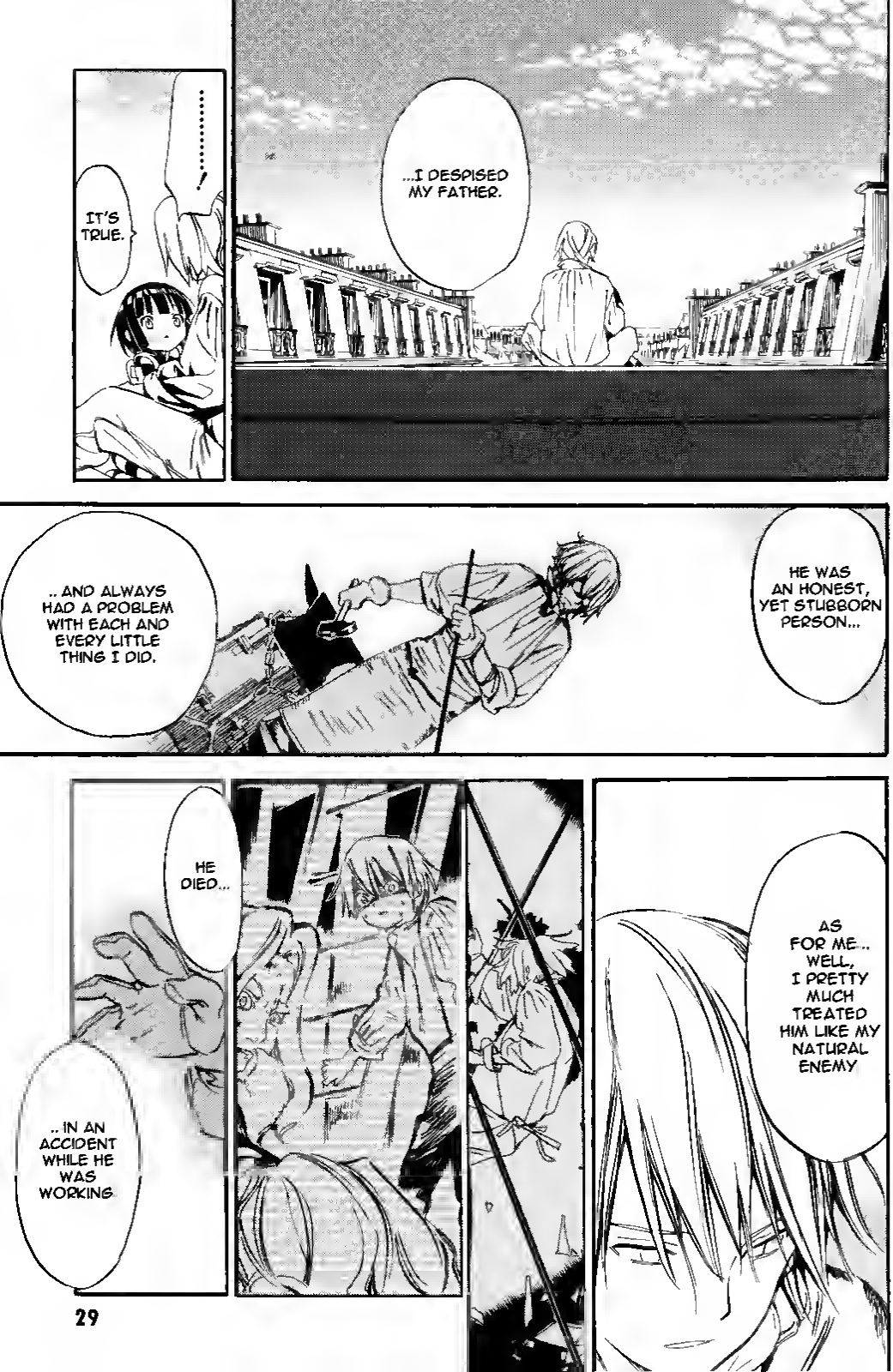
..GLAN-CING OVER AT THEM AND SMILING ...
FROM TIME TO TIME...
!

.....
YOU'RE SO.. I'M NOT SURE WHETHER I SHOULD PRAISE YOUR PER-CEPTION OF THINGS OR NOT SOME-TIMES...

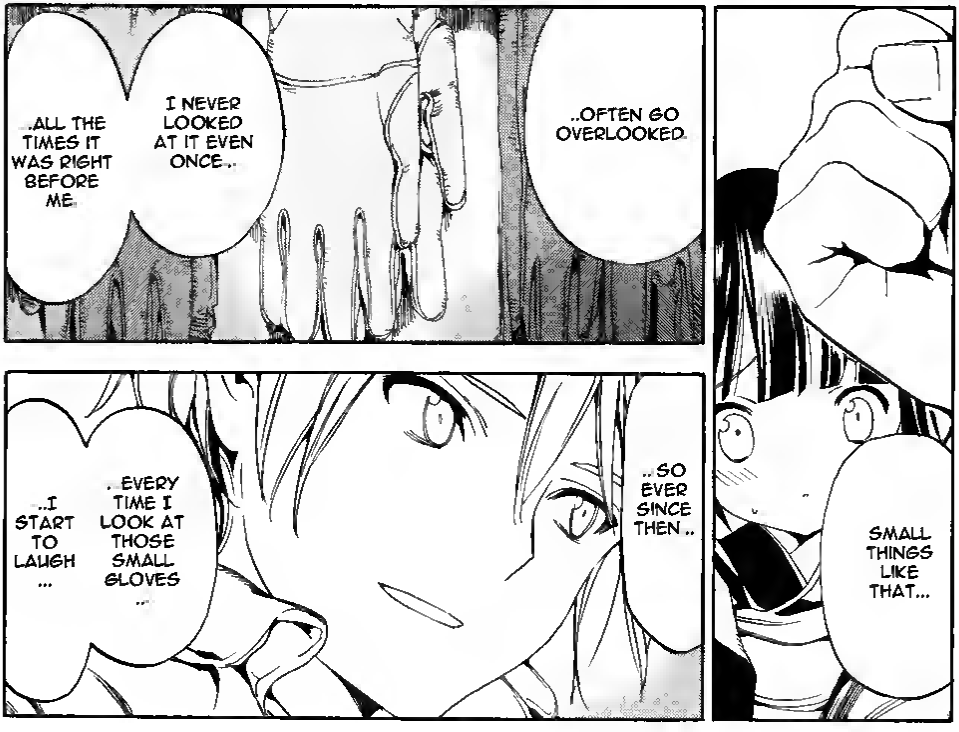
..WELL I CAN'T DENY THAT.
.....
..I GET IT I'LL TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY.

...WHILE HE WAS ALIVE ...

AND IN RETURN, YOU WATCH WHERE YOU'RE WALKING NEXT TIME.
I WILL ..!


IT'S TRUE.
.....!
...I DESPISED MY FATHER.
.. AND ALWAYS HAD A PROBLEM WITH EACH AND EVERY LITTLE THING I DID.
HE WAS AN HONEST, YET STUBBORN PERSON...
HE DIED...
.. IN AN ACCIDENT WHILE HE WAS WORKING
AS FOR ME.. WELL, I PRETTY MUCH TREATED HIM LIKE MY NATURAL ENEMY

IT WAS ONLY AFTER HE WAS GONE...
...THAT I REALIZED THE SMALL SIZE OF THE GLOVES.


..OFTEN GO OVERLOOKED.
I NEVER LOOKED AT IT EVEN ONCE..
..ALL THE TIMES IT WAS RIGHT BEFORE ME.
SMALL THINGS LIKE THAT...
..SO EVER SINCE THEN..
. EVERY TIME I LOOK AT THOSE SMALL GLOVES ..
..I START TO LAUGH ...

..AT MY YOUNGER SELF.
.....
.. SO I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TOUCHING THEM...
..COME ON, STAND UP...
LOOK AROUND.
THIS IS THE GALERIE THAT MY FATHER ADORED.
BUT THEY SAY...
...IT WILL ALL BE GONE BY NEXT YEAR.

JUST HAVING YOU SAFE AND HERE BY MY SIDE...
...WE CAN TAKE ON ANYTHING THAT COMES AT US, RIGHT?
YUNE...
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE "THAT'S ALL I CAN DO".

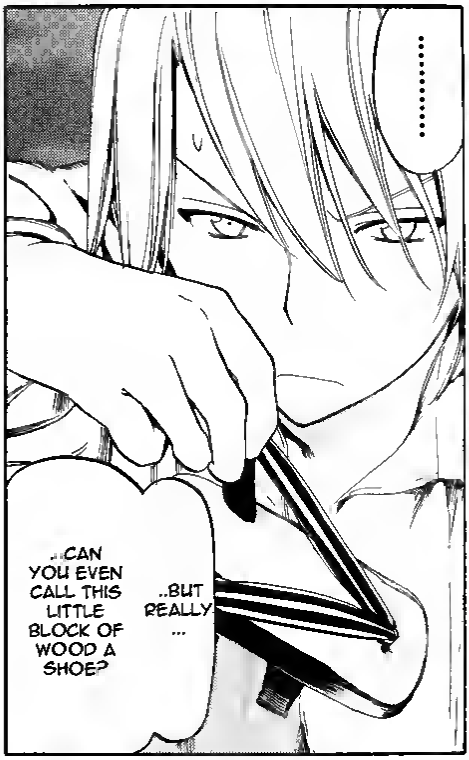
DID YOU KNOW?
THE MOUSE IS THE ONE WHO WANTS IT ON.
OH—
SO THAT WAY IT CAN ALWAYS KNOW WHERE THE CAT IS
?
WHY IS THAT?
"PUTTING A BELL ON A CAT" IS LIKE ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE.
THERE'S THE BELL AGAIN...
OH...
JINGLE JINGLE
I BET YOU'RE RIGHT.
.....
YOU SHOULD TELL YANNICK NEXT TIME WE SEE HIM
...MAYBE
...THAT CAT IS STILL ALIVE AND WATCHING OVER ALL OF US FROM THE ROOF... YOU THINK?

WHY ARE YOU ONLY IN SOCKS?
WAIT UP!
U-UH... WELL... THE ROOF...
WHERE ARE YOUR SHOES?

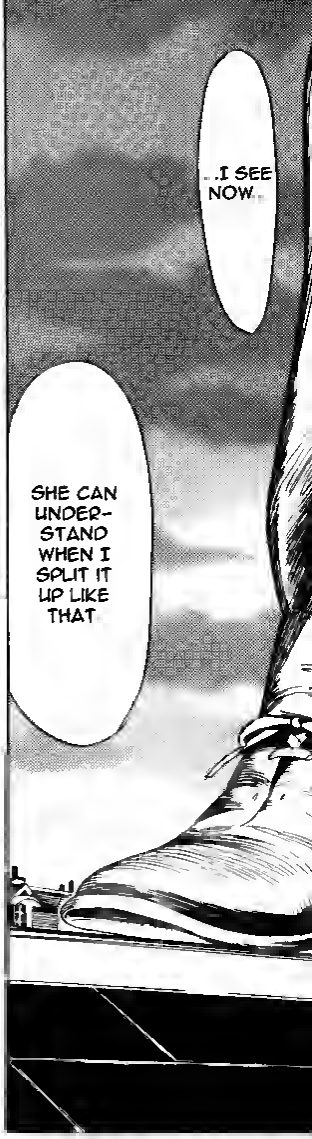
YOU JUST LEFT THEM THERE ?!
I'M SORRY... I COULDN'T SAY... RETURNING TO GO GET THEM..
WELL, WE CAN'T GO HOME LIKE THIS EITHER...
.....
NO CHOICE I GUESS
!!!
AH... I CAN STILL WALK EVEN WITHOUT MY GETA!
YOU THINK I'M NOT EMBARRASSED?
SHOES ARE PROOF THAT YOU MAKE A RESPECTABLE LIVING.
!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D LET YOU WALK HOME LIKE THAT.
. I'M SORRY I HADN'T REALIZED ...
.....

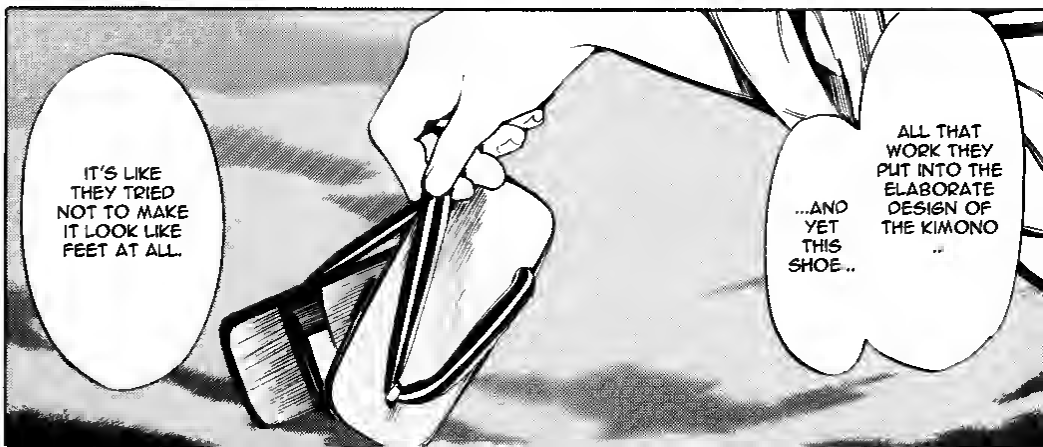
...SIGH...
IT'S JUST ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER WITH YOU.
I'LL GO GET YOUR SHOES, SO WAIT HERE.
OH... BUT IT'S ALREADY DARK OUT...
YOU COULD GET HURT...!
LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!
YOU HEAR ME? YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY NOT TO LEAVE THIS SPOT!
OKAY...
.....
NOT EVEN IF THAT CAT SHOWS UP EITHER!
!
.....
GOT IT!
OH... SHE UNDER-STOOD

THESE MUST BE THEM.


.....
..CAN YOU EVEN CALL THIS LITTLE BLOCK OF WOOD A SHOE?
..BUT REALLY ...

I'M GETTING MORE USED TO IT NOW..
OH!


..I SEE NOW..
SHE CAN UNDER-STAND WHEN I SPLIT IT UP LIKE THAT


IT'S LIKE THEY TRIED NOT TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE FEET AT ALL.
...AND YET THIS SHOE..
ALL THAT WORK THEY PUT INTO THE ELABORATE DESIGN OF THE KIMONO ..

OH... KITTY ..!
I SWEAR ...
JAPANESE HAVE A SCREW LOOSE OR SOMETHING...
I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER THAN THIS...
I'LL FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS THIS TIME FOR SURE...
はっ
.....
. .IS SHE STRUGGLING WITH SOME-THING..?
HEEEY! I FOUND YOUR SHOES!
!!
HERE YOUR SHOES.

BEFORE I WAS ABOUT TO GO AFTER HIM.
I'M SORRY...
Y-YES..

YOU REALLY LIKE CATS THAT MUCH?
OH NO, HE RAN!!
OH.. THANK YOU SO M..

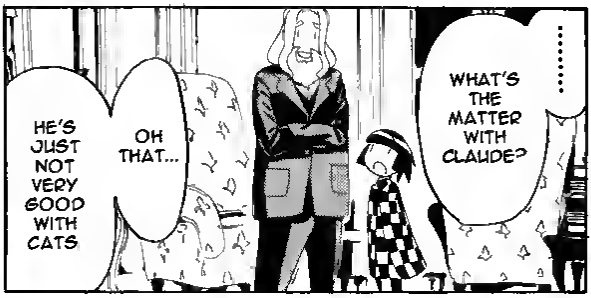
...YEP!

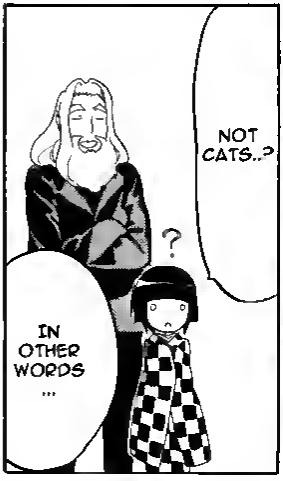
I SEE. GOOD JOB HOLDING BACK THEN.
!

SQUIRM
WIGGLE
I WONDER IF THAT'S WHAT A CAT IS LIKE WHEN A LITTLE BIRD THEY WANT TO PAW AT IS JUST OUT OF THEIR REACH..
.....

Part V.II : A Mouse Wearing Shoes

I HAD NO IDEA...
I'M SORRY !!
WHAT ?!


WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH CLAUDE?
.....
OH THAT...
HE'S JUST NOT VERY GOOD WITH CATS


NOT CATS..?
?
IN OTHER WORDS ...

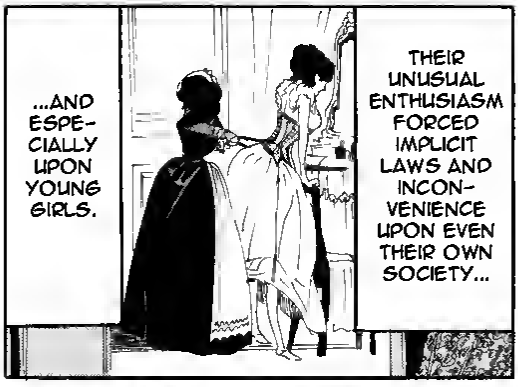
.....?
IT'S NOT ACTUAL CATS I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH
..NOT LIKE THAT ..

WOULD YOU STOP CONFUSING HER!
YES, BUT NOT ACTUAL CATS.
?
?
?

YOU HAD CATS BEFORE ?!
..HAVE ALL LEFT US...
ALL OF THE 'CATS' I'VE LOVED IN THE PAST ...

Part VI: Children's Room

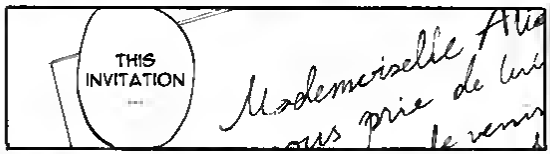
THE RISE OF THE BOURGEOISIE IN 19TH CENTURY FRANCE
HAVING FALLEN INTO GREAT FORTUNE VERY QUICKLY ...
...THEY WERE HELD IN GREAT CONTEMPT BY THE NOBILITY.


THEIR UNUSUAL ENTHUSIASM FORCED IMPLICIT LAWS AND INCONVENIENCE UPON EVEN THEIR OWN SOCIETY...
...AND ESPECIALLY UPON YOUNG GIRLS.

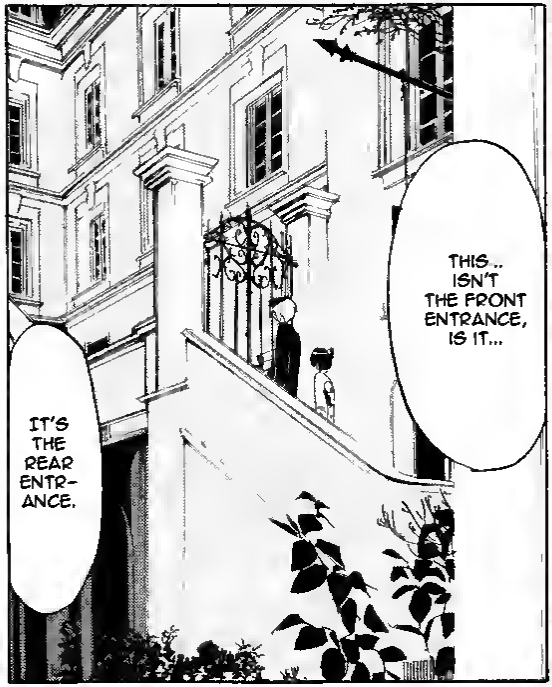
DESPERATE TO FIT INTO THE UPPER CLASS...
...THEY WOULD MARRY INTO A FAMILY TO SECURE THEIR LINEAGE.

IN AN ERA WHERE IT WAS EXPECTED TO MARRY FOR APPEARANCES ONLY...
...TRADITIONAL LOVERS WERE BEGINNING TO EMERGE, ...
...PROTECTING THEIR RIGHT TO PLATONIC LOVE.

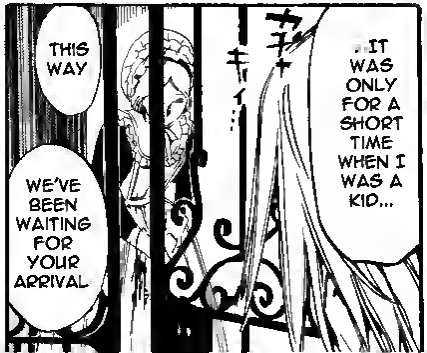
I LOVE YOU, CLAUDE ...
...CAM-ILLE?
SO... WHEN WE GROW UP...
I REALLY AND TRULY DO...
...EVEN IF I'M MARRIED ...
...WILL YOU PROMISE ME YOU'LL ALWAYS COME PLAY WITH ME?


THIS INVITATION
...

...NO, I'M HERE FOR YUNE, NOT HER.
...CL-AUDE-SAMA?


THIS.. ISN'T THE FRONT ENTRANCE, IS IT...
IT'S THE REAR ENTR-ANCE.

YUNE!!


THIS WAY
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL
...IT WAS ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME WHEN I WAS A KID...

MY OLD ACQUAIN-TANCE DESIGNATED THIS IS SHOULD COME IN.
HM?

OH, ANOTHER SPLENDID KIMONO YET AGAIN TODAY!!
WELCOME TO AFTERNOON TEA!
COME INSIDE!!
ALICE...
HEY... I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU... AFTER WE FINISH OUR TEA TODAY...
YOU CAN'T DENY YOUR DEBT TO US, CAN YOU.
FOR HOW RUDE YOUR TONE IS, YOU SURE DID DELIVER HER TO US WELL.
WHO WOULD PROTECT YUNE IF I WASN'T HERE?
THERE WAS NO NEED FOR YOU TO TAG ALONG.
OH?
SO...
ALL OF THE ADULTS ARE OUT TODAY, VISITING THE SURROUNDING CASTLES, ...
YUNE, COME WITH ME!
BUT FORGET THAT ...

MON-SIEUR
I'M FINE WHERE
MONSIEUR CLAUDE, PLEASE FOLLOW ME TO THE INTERIOR.
...CAMILLE
...THIS IS OUR CASTLE TODAY!
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE. GO AHEAD.
CLAUDE-SAMA...
WOW...
THIS IS MY OLDER SISTER'S.
WHEN YOU'RE IN THIS INNER GARDEN, IT FEELS JUST LIKE YOU'RE OUTSIDE, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE STILL INSIDE OUR CON-STRAINED MANSION.

MY MOTHER HATES STRAY CATS.
HUH? BUT DON'T YOU HAVE A PET CAT?
SHE SAYS THEY ONLY GRACE YOU WITH THEIR PRESENCE WHEN THEY FEEL LIKE IT ...
LIKE SOME KIND OF PROSTITUTE OR LOVER
.....
SO THAT'S WHY ...
...SHE'LL NEVER EVER LET OUR CAT OUTSIDE.
THE POOR THING
I PREFER STRAY CATS MUCH MORE
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.
.....
.....

.....
...ALMOST LIKE A COWARDLY LITTLE MOUSE.
.....
OH, DID THAT UPSET YOU, BEING TOLD THAT BY ME?
DOESN'T IT BRING BACK MEMO-RIES?
EVERY TIME YOU BROUGHT A STRAY CAT WITH YOU TO SEE ME.
THERE WAS NOTHING I LOOKED FORWARD TO MORE.
..HEH HEH. THAT JAPANESE GIRL REMINDS ME OF MY YOUNGER SELF.
YUNE ISN'T LIKE YOU.
.....
...I'VE HEARD RUMORS LATELY.
SHE NEVER LEAVES YOUR SIDE BECAUSE SHE LOOKS UP TO YOU?
GIRLS ARE GIRLS, NO MATTER WHAT FAR OFF COUNTRY THEY MAY HAVE BEEN BORN IN.
...WHAT DO YOU KNOW.

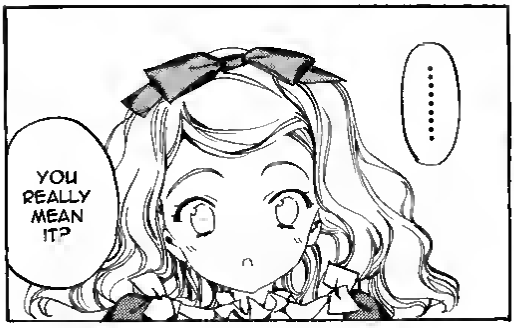
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW.
NOTHING AS TRIVIAL AS CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, SOMETHING MUCH MORE SERIOUS.
SOMETHING WE POSSESS, JUST BEING BORN AS WOMEN.
TELL ME, HOW OLD IS SHE?
.....
WHY HAS SHE COME HERE FROM JAPAN?
IS HER FAMILY WELL OFF?
WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION HAS SHE HAD?
.....
..YOU DON'T KNOW?
.....
NONE OF THAT MATTERS TO ME.
..BECAUSE YOU TRUST HER, RIGHT?

SHE WON'T STAND STILL AND LET ME DRESS HER!
!
YUNE WON'T ..!
ALICE ...
CAMILLE! SISTER~ !!
I DON'T ...
WHA...
I WONDER IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY THAT YOURSELF ..
...OH?
STOP TREATING HER LIKE A DAMN DOLL ALREADY!
...ALICE !!
..BUT IT IS A LITTLE CRUEL.
I DO ADORE THAT SIDE OF YOU ...

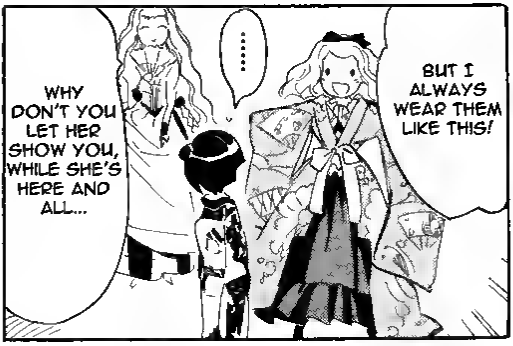
!
SISTER, HERE SHE IS
..MY...
WHAT A WISPY LITTLE BODY...
I ONLY WANTED YUNE TO WEAR...
ALLLLLL OF MY COLL-ECTION HERE!
AH...
IT'S A PLEA-SURE TO MEET YOU..

SHE DOESN'T LIKE BEING DRESSED BY THE MAIDS.
U-UM..
I-I CAN D-DO THIS ON MY OWN...
ALICE..
.....
...YOU'RE RIGHT, SISTER.
PLEASE STEP BACK FROM HER.
WOULDN'T YOU LEARN MUCH MORE BY LETTING HER SHOW YOU HER WAY OF THINGS...
...THAN THROUGH FORCE LIKE THIS?
GO AHEAD
.....
OKAY

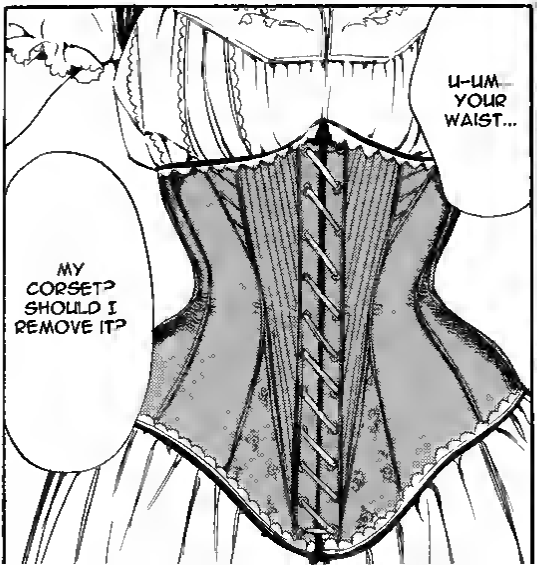
U-UM... I'M FINISHED...
AMAZING!
...A BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCE.
...IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE THE SAME KIMONO!!
IT WAS SO BIG BEFORE!!
NO BUTTONS OR ANYTHING, JUST HELD TOGETHER BY A SINGLE BELT.
IT'S AMAZING IT CAN CREATE SUCH A SHAPE!
LET ME SEE IT AGAIN!!
NO WAIT, SIT OVER HERE!
AH, LET'S SEE, WHICH ONE NEXT...
...MAYBE YOU'D... ...LIKE TO INSTEAD...
SO NICE!
I WISH I COULD HAVE YOU JUST SITTING THERE FOREVER!


.....
YOU REALLY MEAN IT?

I'LL HELP YOU...
...PUT IT ON...


.....
WHY DON'T YOU LET HER SHOW YOU, WHILE SHE'S HERE AND ALL...
BUT I ALWAYS WEAR THEM LIKE THIS!

...OKAY, SISTER.


U-UM... YOUR WAIST...
MY CORSET? SHOULD I REMOVE IT?

.....
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?

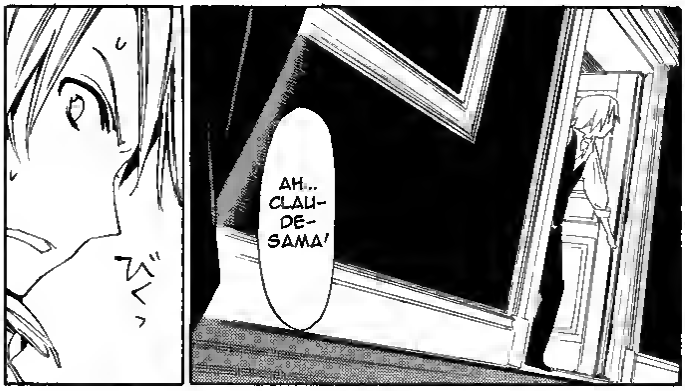
..IF YOUR MID-SECTION ISN'T FLAT...
THE BELT WON'T HOLD...
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH IT?
YES... WELL MAYBE I COULD...
DO YOU HAVE ANY LEFTOVER CLOTH...
OH, WELL ...
...YOU PEOPLE HAVE IT ALL BACKWARDS, DON'T YOU.
..THAT WE TIGHTEN OUR CORSETS THREE TIMES EVERYDAY.
AND TO THINK WE'RE SO OBSESSED WITH BEING THIN..
WELL ... I USUALLY LOOSEN MINE INSTEAD.
THERE AREN'T ANY GRAND EXPECTATIONS FOR MY FUTURE, UNLIKE MY SISTER.
.....

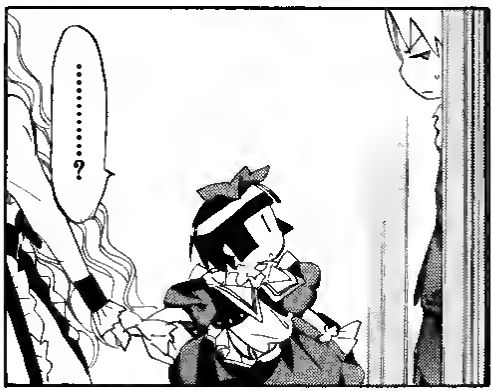
HOW IS IT, SISTER?
IT'S OH SO LOVELY, ALICE.
.....
STOP STARING AT MY SISTER AND LOOK AT ME!!
...YUNE !!
I
...LET ME DRESS YOU!
WAH!
AH.. YES, IT LOOKS VERY WELL ON YOU...
THEN, THIS TIME..

...THIS IS WHY I DON'T LIKE WOMEN...
ゴロゴロ
ニャーン
WILL YOU STILL COME SEE ME...
..EVEN IF I'M MARRIED?
ISN'T IT NICE? YOU SHOULD BE PROUD.
YEP
T-THAT WOULD MAKE ME JUST LIKE A STRAY CAT..?
..BUT THAT ...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO NEED SOMETHING A LITTLE SMALLER.
AHA HAHA HAHA !!
HEH HEH ...

HEY... WAIT UP! SISTER?! YUNE!!
!

COME WITH ME I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.
!


AH... CLAU-DE-SAMA!
ベッ


……?

CLAU-DE-SAMA ...
……!!

……

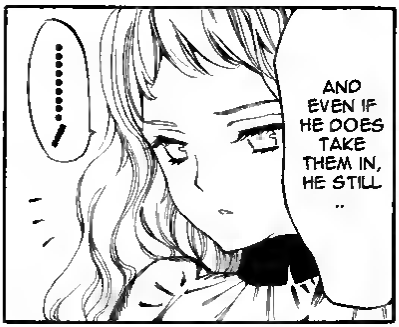
YES, WHAT IS IT?
OH... NO IT'S NOTHING ...
...UM, CAMILLE ...
IF YOU HAVE SOME-THING TO SAY, SAY IT.
AH.. I'M SORRY ...
...WELL... I HAVE A SISTER ..
...BACK IN JAPAN... AND...
SHE'S JUST LIKE YOU.. ALWAYS SO KIND AND I..
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MAKING YOU MY SISTER!
!
JUST WHAT DID YOU SEE THAT MADE YOU THINK THAT?

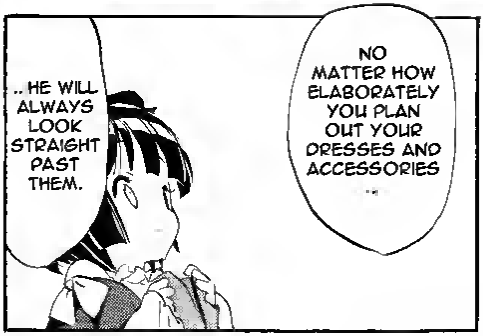
BUT NEITHER SHOULD YOU JUST LAUGH OFF EVERYONE AND EVERY-THING EITHER..
IT'S THE SAME AS CALLING YOURSELF AN IDIOT.
APO-LOGIZING IS REC-OGNIZING YOUR OWN ERRORS, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
UH... I'M SO-RRY ...
...THAT'S LIKE A DEAD GIVE AWAY TO BE ON ALERT.
IF SOMEONE IS SUPER FRIENDLY RIGHT OFF THE BAT...
WHETHER THEY KNOW YOU WELL OR NOT.
THERE'S ONLY ONE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE THAT DO AND DON'T SCARE YOU...
O-OKAY ...
THAT'S HOW WE DO THINGS HERE.
BUT THE INSTANT YOU'RE ACCEPTED AS A FRIEND..
NOW, PICK OUT ONE YOU LIKE
THEY'RE ALL CHILDREN'S CLOTHING.

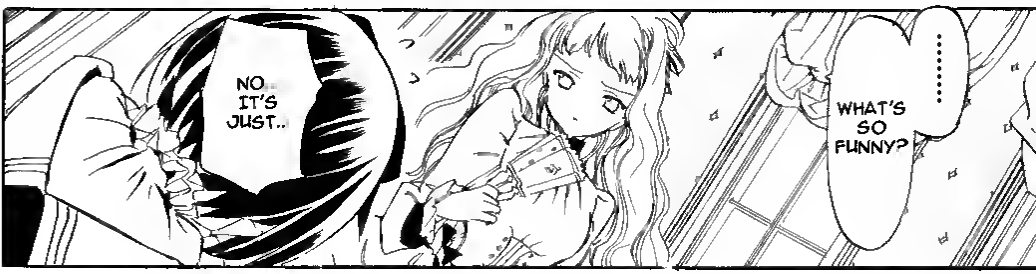
U-UM, WELL
ISN'T THERE ONE YOU'D LIKE TO TRY ON?
.....
.....
...WELL...
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?
..SO YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF AFTER ALL
...THIS ONE...
...THAT MY LONG, FLUTTERING SLEEVES ONLY GOT IN THE WAY, SO...
CLAUDE-SAMA TOLD ME BEFORE...

YOU MAY CHOOSE THINGS WITH HIM IN MIND...
..BUT DON'T EXPECT TO RECEIVE A WORD OF PRAISE FROM HIS LIPS

.....
AND SO... I PICKED ONE WITH RELATIVELY SIMPLE SLEEVES...


.....!
AND EVEN IF HE DOES TAKE THEM IN, HE STILL ..

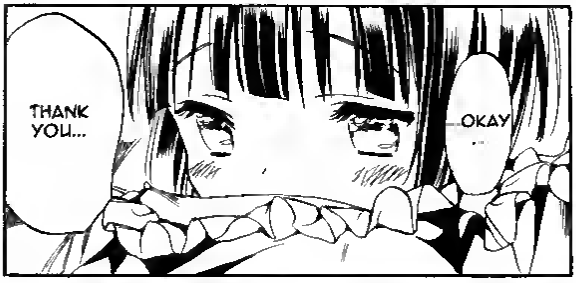

NO MATTER HOW ELABORATELY YOU PLAN OUT YOUR DRESSES AND ACCESSORIES ..
.. HE WILL ALWAYS LOOK STRAIGHT PAST THEM.


NO.. IT'S JUST..
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
.....

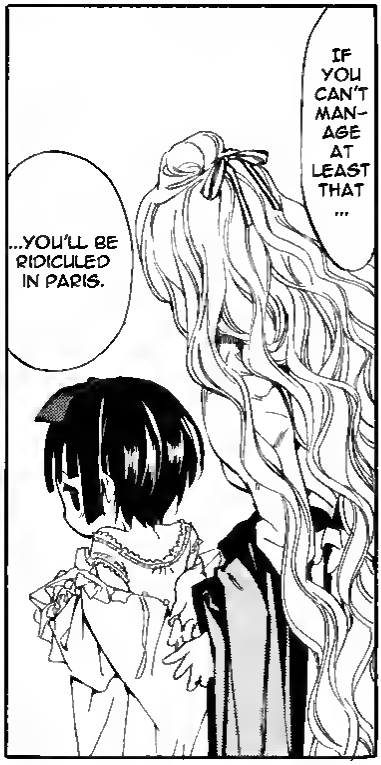
...I...
I-I THINK SO TOO..!
...I'M SORRY...
I'M JUST SO HAPPY THAT I COULD TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT CLAUDE-SAMA...
...IN THIS WAY...
.....
AH... I'M SOR-...
UH, I MEAN...

...MUST KNOW WHAT THEIR STRONG POINTS ARE...
...AND FIND CLOTHES THAT ACCENT THOSE TRAITS ON THEIR OWN

...GIRLS


THANK YOU...
...OKAY

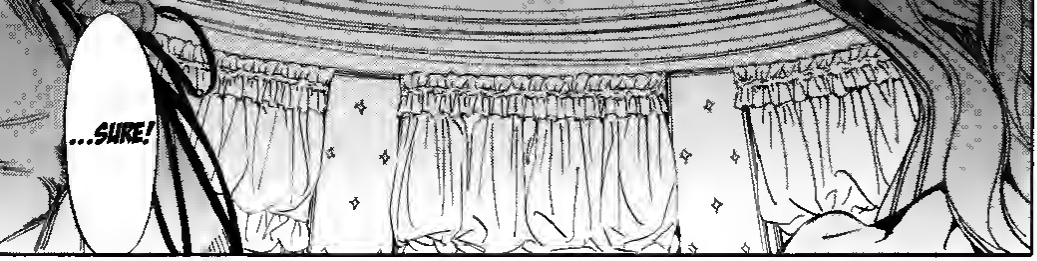
...IS WHERE WE SPENT OUR CHILDHOOD
...THIS ROOM...

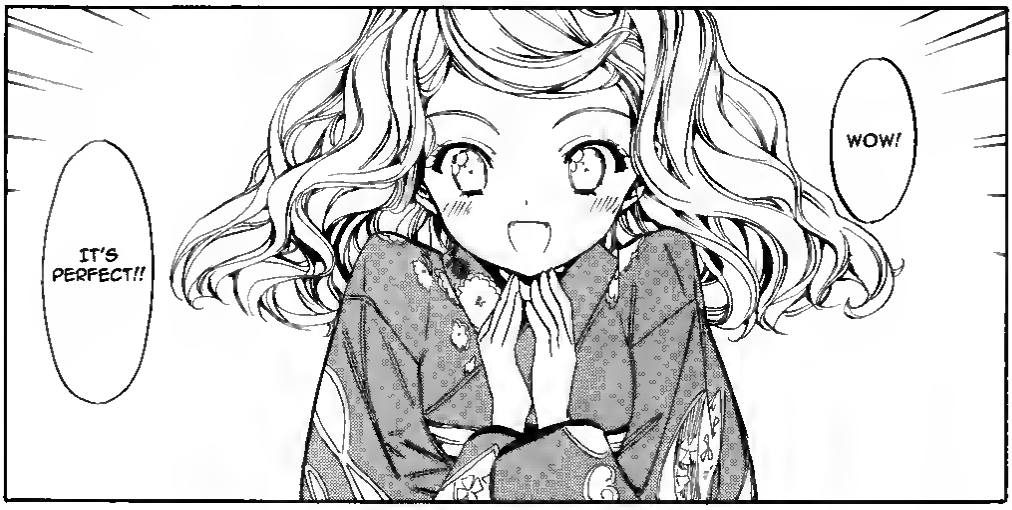

IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE AT LEAST THAT...
...YOU'LL BE RIDICULED IN PARIS.

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG WE HAD A NANNY.
AND OTHER THAN WHEN IT WAS TIME TO EAT, WE WERE TO SPEND ALL OF OUR TIME IN HERE STUDYING.
BUT A LOT OF THE TIME...
...ALICE WOULD SNEAK OUT AND GET SCOLDED.
AND IN THIS ROOM ...
...IS WHERE MY MANY GLISTENING MEMORIES ARE HELD.
HEH HEH.. THAT MARK ON THE WINDOW-SILL .
...WAS FROM HER ROPE
ALICE ...
...LEFT HER MARK ON EVERYTHING, EVEN THE CHAIRS AND DESKS.
AND THE CEILING ...
...FROM WHEN SHE DREW A DRAGON THERE.

AND THESE CLOTHES ...
...WERE WHAT ALICE WORE...
...WHEN SHE READ HER VERY OWN ADVENTURE BOOK TO ME.
AN ORIENTAL DRAGON...
AND ALSO ...
.....!

.....!
THEY'RE YOURS.
...WHO HAD A LOVELY CHAT WITH ME.
THE CLOTHES ...
...THAT I GAVE TO THE YOUNG GIRL FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY...
SISTER~!
YUNE!
...HOW-EVER, THIS PLACE ...
...IS MUCH TOO CONFINED FOR ALICE, I FEAR
SO PLEASE SHARE MORE OF YOUR STORIES ...
...FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.


...SURE!

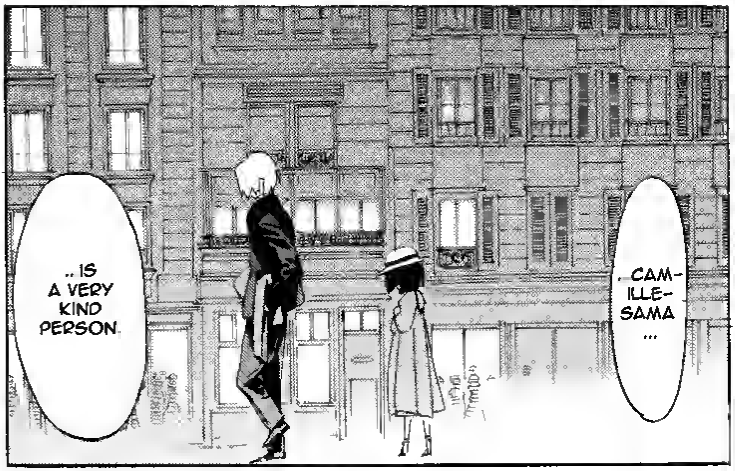

WOW!
IT'S PERFECT!!

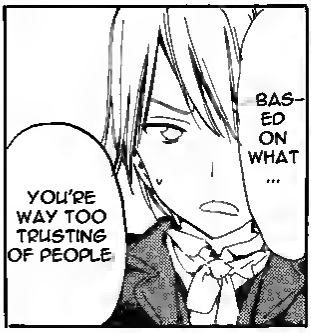
.....

WELL? CLAUDEL ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YUNE IN MY CLOTHES?

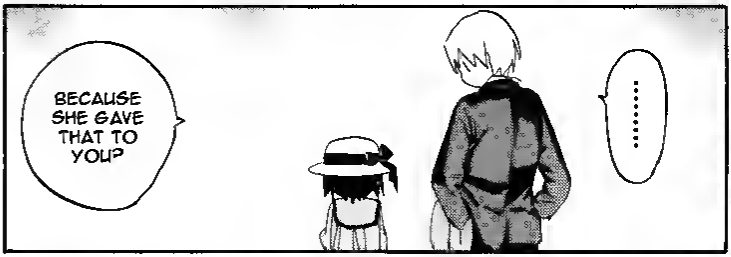
I SWEAR, NOT A SINGLE DECENT THING EVER COMES OUT OF YOUR MOUTH!!
SOME-HOW... SHE LOOKS NORMAL NOW...

DID CAMILLE SAY ANYTHING STRANGE TO YOU?


..CAM-ILLE-SAMA ...
.. IS A VERY KIND PERSON.


BAS-ED ON WHAT ...
YOU'RE WAY TOO TRUSTING OF PEOPLE.

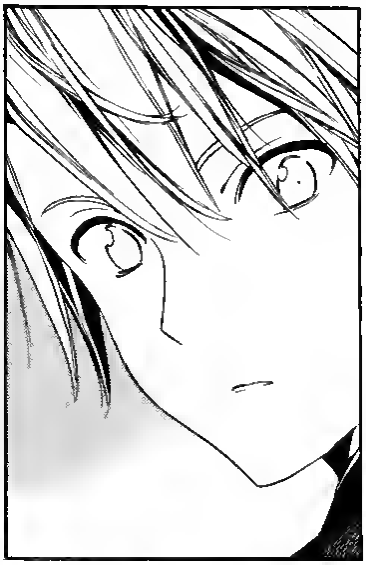
...SHE ...
..GAVE HER PRECIOUS THINGS TO ME.


.....
BECAUSE SHE GAVE THAT TO YOU?

THIS ..

THIS DRESS... IS A PART OF CAMILLE...

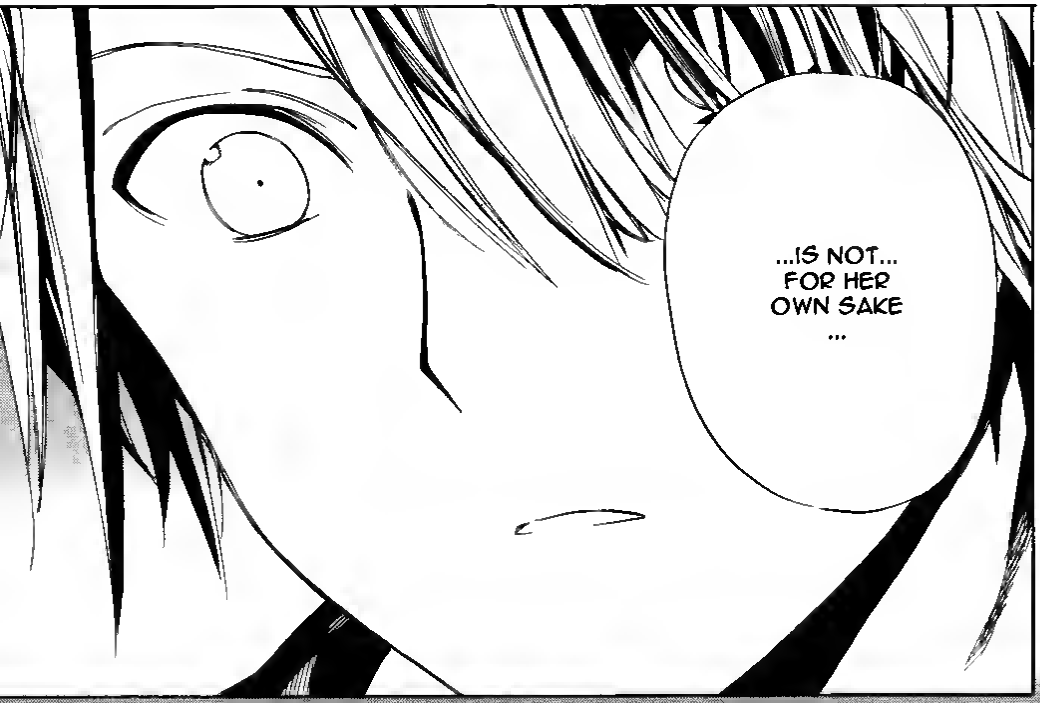
CAMILLE-SAMA...
...IS VERY CONSIDERATE OF HER SISTER ...



I HEARD THAT THEY FORCE THEMSELVES TO RE-TIGHTEN THEM THREE TIMES EACH AND EVERY DAY.

...I HEARD ..
...THAT IN ORDER FOR ELEGANT LADIES TO MARRY ELEGANT MEN...
...THEY HAVE TO WEAR CORSETS.

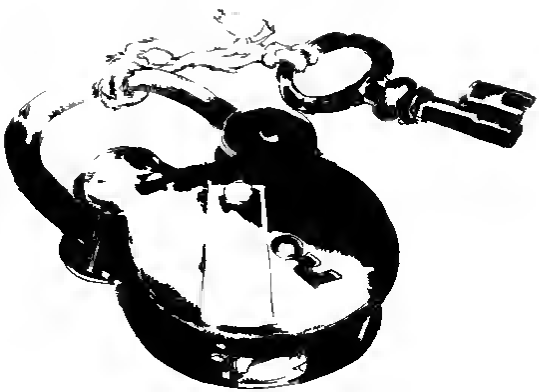
...I'M SURE THE REASON SHE PUTS UP WITH THE CORSET...

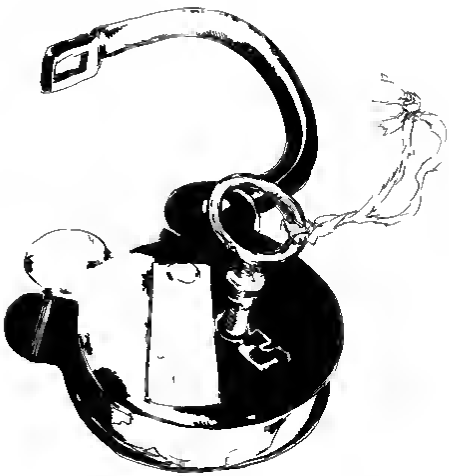

...IS NOT... FOR HER OWN SAKE ...

COME ON. IT'S FINE!
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT'S BEYOND THE OUTER WALLS?
I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND!
I CAN'T !!
I PROMISED MY NANNY...
...THAT I WOULD NEVER LEAVE SO LONG AS SHE DIDN'T TELL MOTHER ABOUT YOU!
IF MOTHER EVER FOUND OUT...
IS THAT ALL? YOU'RE SCARED OF YOUR MOM FINDING OUT?
YOU'RE MORE OF A SCAREDY CAT THAN I THOUGHT.
...THAT'S RIGHT.

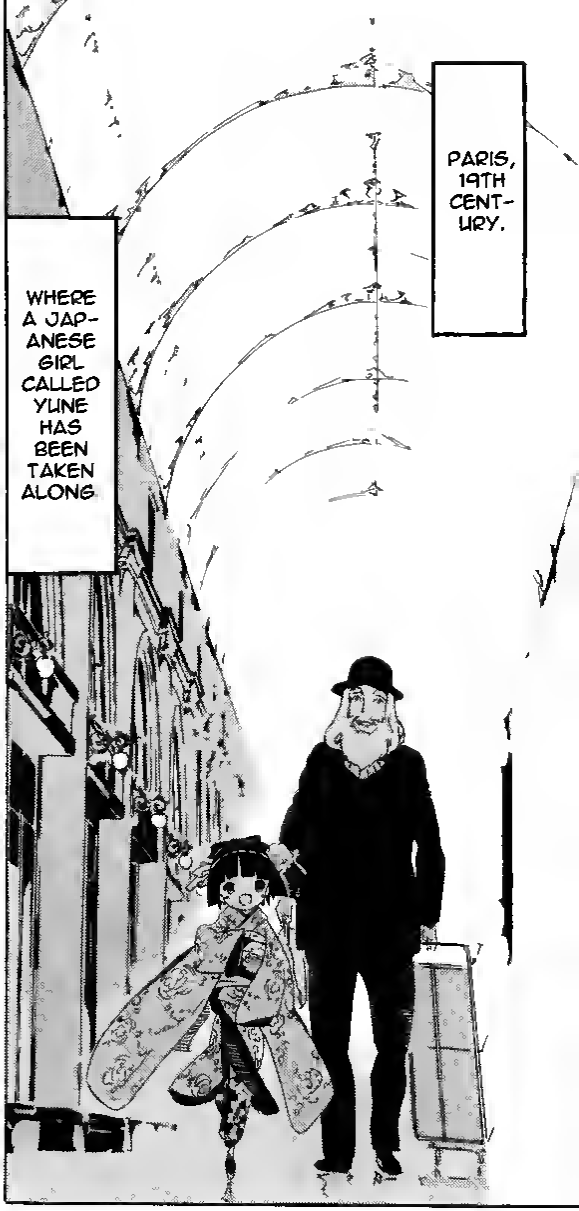
AND WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH THAT?
IF IT MEANS NOT LOSING YOU
..EVEN IF I'M MARRIED.
PROMISE ME, YOU'LL STILL COME SEE ME...
NO... I...
...ARE YOU LIKE THAT TOO?

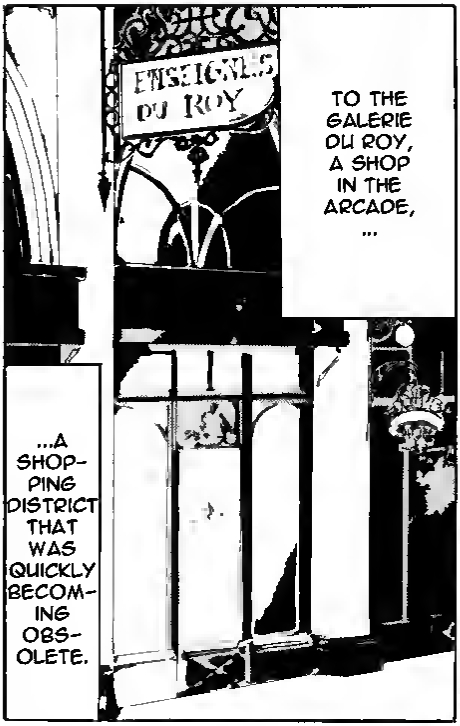
...I SHOULD LEARN A LITTLE MORE MYSELF
THEN I GUESS...
I SEE ..
I DON'T KNOW ...
.....
UM?
SHE WAS RIGHT ...
...SIGH
JUST A LITTLE MOUSE TALKING TO HIMSELF.

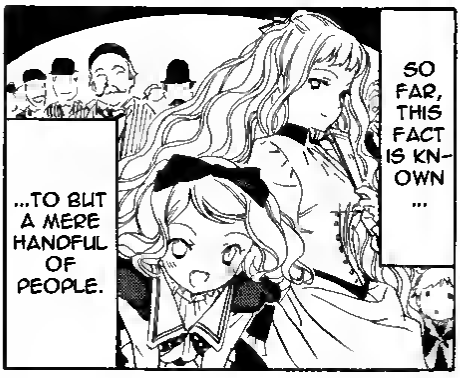




Partie VII: The Park


PARIS, 19TH CENTURY.
WHERE A JAPANESE GIRL CALLED YUNE HAS BEEN TAKEN ALONG


ENSEIGNES DU ROY
TO THE GALERIE DU ROY, A SHOP IN THE ARCADE, ...
...A SHOPPING DISTRICT THAT WAS QUICKLY BECOMING OBSOLETE.


SO FAR, THIS FACT IS KNOWN ...
...TO BUT A MERE HANDFUL OF PEOPLE.

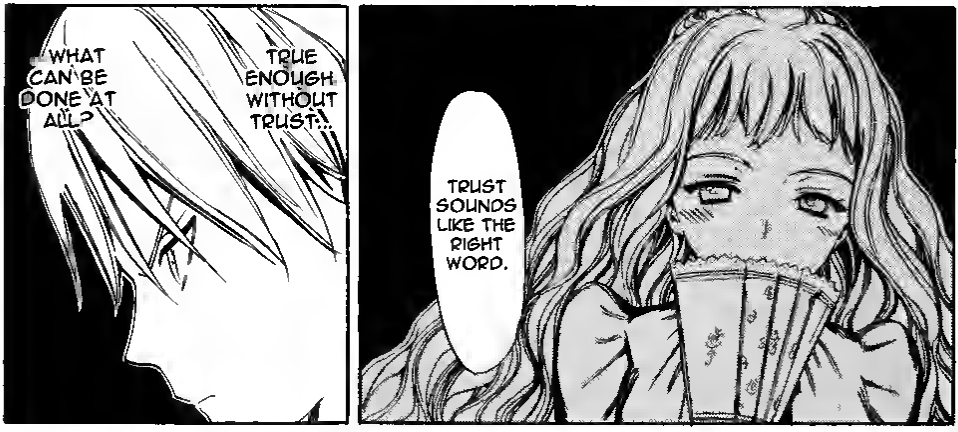
異国迷路のクロワーゼ

HOW UNUSUAL OF YOU, CLAUDE
IS AGE THE MATTER IN SOME FASHION?
N... NAH...
JUST THOUGHT IT WAS THE SORT OF THING ONE WERE BETTER OFF KNOWING...
HOW OLD YUNE IS?
!!
...WHY, IS THAT SOMETHING MADEMOISELLE CAMILLE PUT YOU UP TO?
I WAS MERELY SAYING THAT BECAUSE SHE ALSO HAD A PART IN INFLUENCING YUNE INTO RETURNING, NO MORE.
...INDEED?
GRIN
WHU! IT HAD BEEN A CONCERN OF MINE FOR A WHILE NOW, THAT'S ALL!
WHO SPEAKS OF SEDUCING HER?
FAILING THAT, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEDUCE MADEMOISELLE CAMILLE.
LEARN TO COME UP WITH MORE ELEGANT LIES.

WE WERE WONDERING JUST HOW OLD YOU ARE.
...WELL
OH. YOU ARRIVE RIGHT ON TIME
...I'LL BE 16 YEARS NEW YEAR.
SPLURT
YUNE, YOU WERE BORN ...
...IN DE-CEM-BER, SIR.
THIS HAS MORE TO DO WITH THE JAPANESE COUNTING SYSTEM, DOESN'T IT?
?
...?!
SHE CAN'T BE SERIOUS, CAN SHE?!
WHICH PUTS HER SOME-WHERE PAST 13. AND SOON 14.
.....
JAPAN STANDARD
BIRTH
1 YEAR OLD
JAN-UARY
2 YEAR OLD
0 YEARS OLD
BIRTH-DAY
1 YEAR OLD
JAN-UARY
3 YEAR OLD
NEWBORNS ARE CONSIDERED ONE YEAR OLD, AND COME THE NEW YEAR THEY'RE CON-SIDERED TWO...
GOING BY THE WAY... THE JAP-ANESE COUNT SUCH THINGS ...

NO, NO NO NO! 10 YEARS OLD SOUNDS A LOT MORE LIKE IT!
HER AWKWARD MANNER OF SPEAKING IS WHAT MAKES HER APPEAR YOUNGER, I'D SAY.
ISN'T SHE A BIT SMALL TO BE THAT OLD?
AH! HAAAH!
YOU'RE HAVING SOME DOUBTS, AREN'T YOU?
DEF-INITELY...
JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE REALLY HARD TO FIGURE OUT.
STILL, KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A MINOR DETAIL...
...HARDLY MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE LONG RUN.
YOUR ABILITY TO SEE THINGS THAT WAY IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT, IT HARDLY MATTERS
CAUSE IT DOESN'T ENTAIL ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.

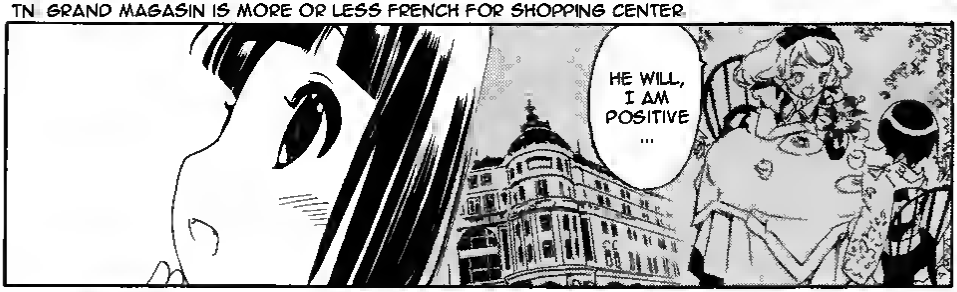
SHE'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D PUT ANY MALICIOUS INTENT BEHIND A LIE.
SHE WOULDN'T SO MUCH AS THINK OF ANYTHING THAT WOULD CAUSE US HARM.
SHE'S WORTHY OF CONFIDENCE. THAT OUGHT TO BE MORE THAN ENOUGH.

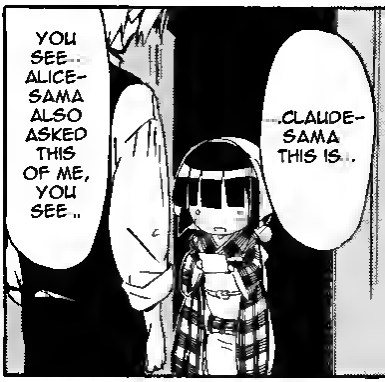

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT ALL?
TRUE ENOUGH WITHOUT TRUST...
TRUST SOUNDS LIKE THE RIGHT WORD.

THAT'S WHAT I LOVE SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
THE CRUELTY.
CLAUDE, IS SOMETHING ELSE BOTHERING YOU?
.....
GRANDFATHER YUNE RECEIVED SOME FLOWERS A LITTE WHILE AGO
...THOSE WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE COME FROM ALICE, WOULD THEY?
UH.. WELL ...
I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK!!
.....?
WAIT A MINUTE.. IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE CAMILLE, CAN IT?
I MEAN, COME ON!
EVEN IF IT COMES WITH AN INVITATION TO A TEA PARTY, SHE'S UNLIKELY TO TURN UP THERE BY NOW.
...WELL, NO
IT'S FROM HER OLDER BROTHER.

AN INVITATION TO THE EXHIBITION OF JAPANESE SUNDRIES THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN HIS GRAND MAGASIN.
AH... IT'S FROM ALICE-SAMA'S OLDER BROTHER ...

TN: GRAND MAGASIN IS MORE OR LESS FRENCH FOR SHOPPING CENTER.

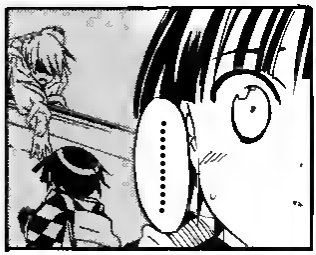




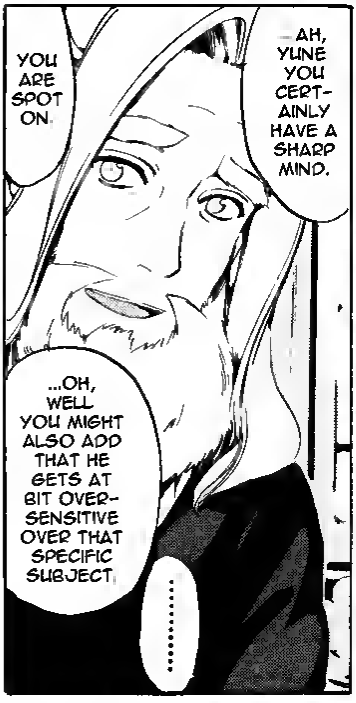
...DON'T JUST GO ABOUT MAKING PROMISES LIKE THAT.

..THE NERVE OF HIM ...
I... I'M SORRY ...!
!

I'M SORRY..!
!


.....

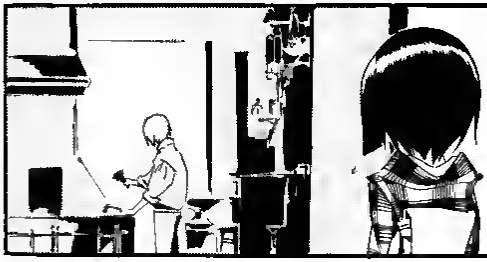
WE'RE NEVER SETTING FOOT THERE!
THE GRAND MAGASIN IS THE GALERIES' ENEMY!


...AH, YUNÉ YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A SHARP MIND.
YOU ARE SPOT ON.
...OH, WELL YOU MIGHT ALSO ADD THAT HE GETS AT BIT OVER-SENSITIVE OVER THAT SPECIFIC SUBJECT.
.....

...IS THERE ANY CONNECTION .. BETWEEN THE GRAND MAGASIN AND CLAUDE-SAMA..?
!

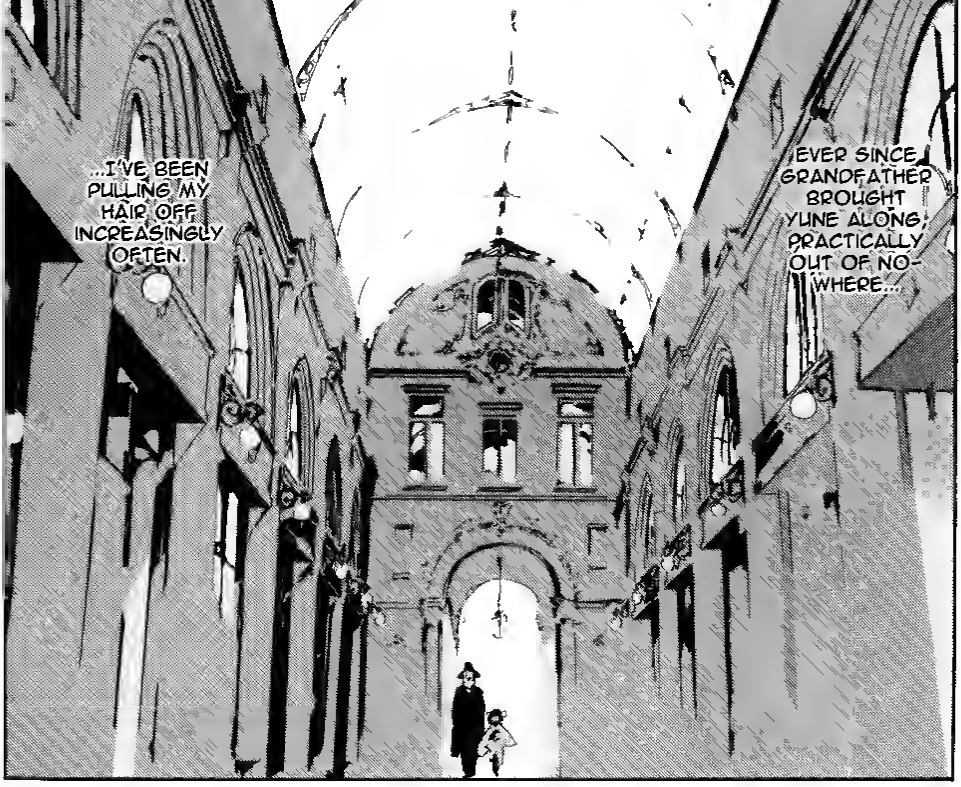
OSCAR-SAMA

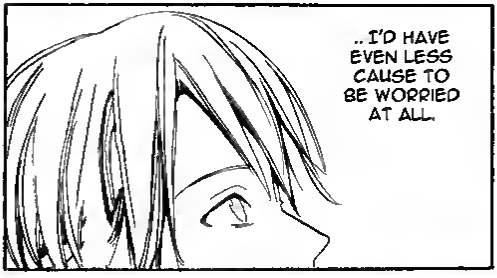
...CLAU-DE-SAMA



...WHAT HAPP-ENED?
JUST A FEW MINUTES BACK YOU SEEMED SO EAGER ABOUT IT.
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE GRAND MAGASIN.
I'VE HAD.. A CHANGE OF HEART.
I... I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO.
I MEAN IT..!
MY CONFIDENCE IN HER WAS WELL-PLACED.
I HAVE ONLY ONE CERT-ITUDE...
HER WAYS ARE A MYSTERY TO ME.
.....
...DOES SHE MEAN IT? OR NOT?

...YOU'RE BEING A GREAT HELP.
I SEE.
THANK GOD FOR THAT. THAT WAY YOU CAN FULLY CONCENTRATE ON YOUR WORK.


...I'VE BEEN PULLING MY HAIR OFF INCREASINGLY OFTEN.
EVER SINCE GRANDFATHER BROUGHT YUNE ALONG, PRACTICALLY OUT OF NOWHERE...


..I'D HAVE EVEN LESS CAUSE TO BE WORRIED AT ALL.

IN THAT CASE...
..I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SHE ACTUALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT'S GOING ON.

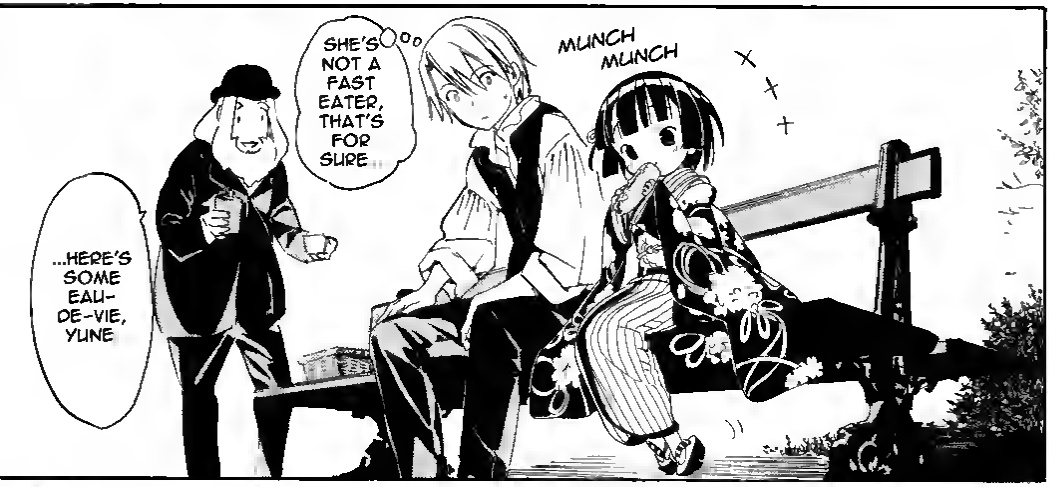
I NEED TO SETTLE DOWN AND STOP WORRYING.
I'M GONNA GET YOU THERE.
SHE'S NOT JUST SOME UNRULY CHILD.

YUNE ANYWHERE YOU'D LIKE TO GO?
YES?

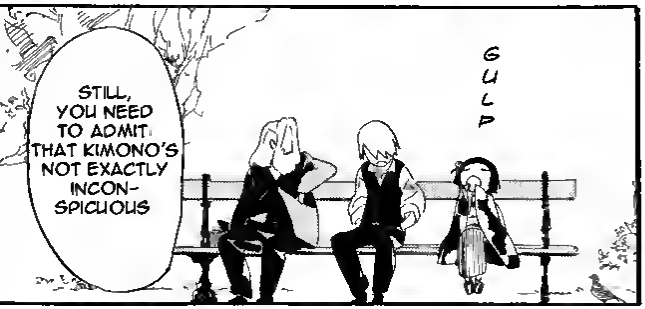
SFX: RAINDROPS.
...THAT SOUNDS WONDER-FUL...
PICNIC IS NOT AN OPTION TODAY, IT SEEMS ...
...AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT THROUGH PLANNING THIS FOR YOU.
SORRY ABOUT THAT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WATCH ME STOP THE RAIN
I'LL DO IT JUST FOR YOU.
REALLY? YOU WOULD?!
.....

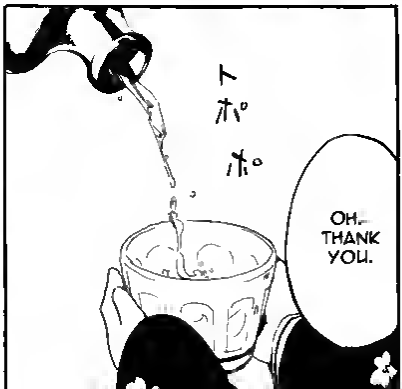
YOU REALLY DID IT!
IN JAPAN, IT CAN RAIN NON-STOP FOR HOURS ON END.
THE RAIN STOPPED? BIG DEAL.
.....
I DON'T SEE WHERE THE PRO-BLEM IS.
I THINK WE SHOULD FEEL HONORED.
IF THAT MUCH IS ENOUGH TO MAKE HER HAPPY

THE SANDWICHES...
UH?
THEY'RE ACTUALLY VANISHING..?
OH... ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
HELLOOO! YUNE! I'M GONNA END UP EATING YOUR SHARE TOO!
A LITTLE WAVE OF MY HAND, AND..
BUT LOOK AND BEHOLD ...
CLAUDE ATE EVERYTHING, UNFORTUNATELY
HAH HAH HAH !!
GRANDFATHER !!
しゃん…
……



TN EAU-DE-VIE = BRANDY

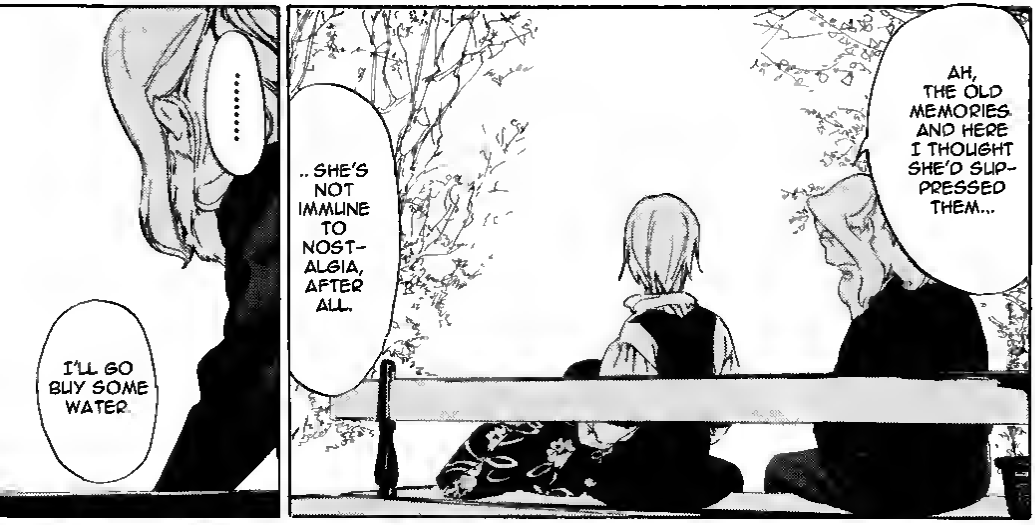


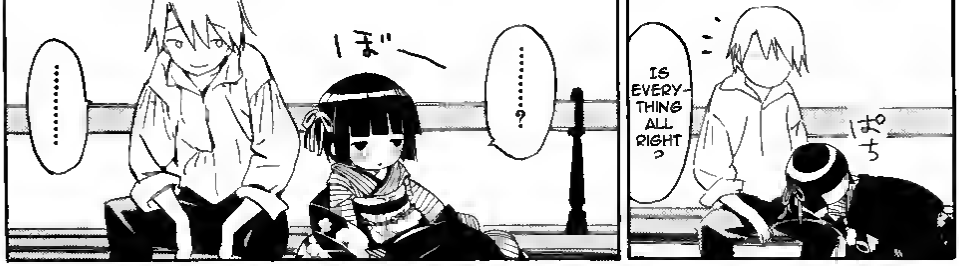


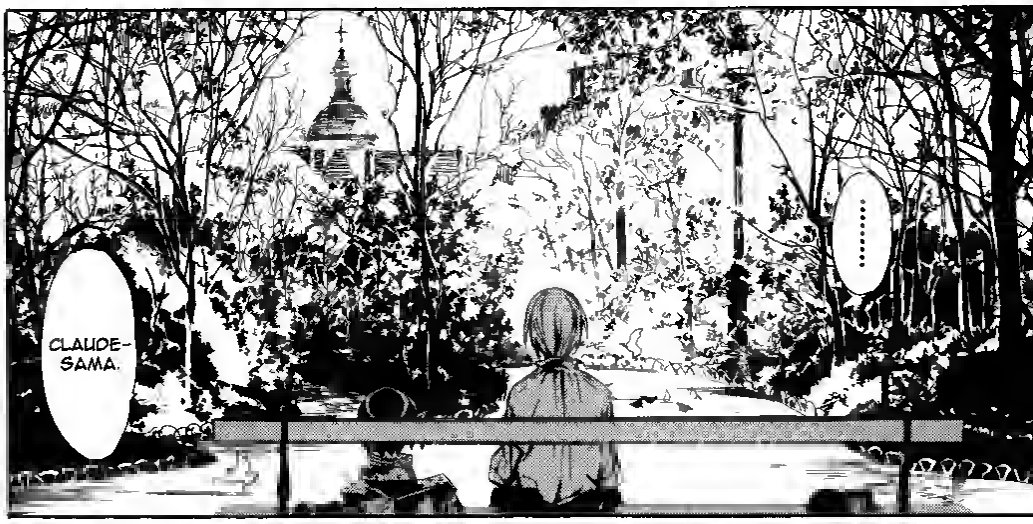
HE... HEY, YUNE!
...UH-HUH. WHY IS YUNE SO TIRED?
EVEN IF WE AVOID THE CROWD IT'S STILL A HASSLE.
..OS-CAR-SAMA'S MAGIC ..?
...IS IT SOME OF...
...UNLESS. IS SHE DRUNK?!
.....
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
OF COU-RSE YOU DON'T.
.....
I'D HEARD THE JAPANESE LOVED NOTHING MORE THAN AN OUT-DOORS DRINK..
I
WHAT I GAVE HER WAS BARELY A DROP ..
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
SHE'D WITHSTOOD THE HOT WINE RATHER WELL, SO I GOT CARELESS

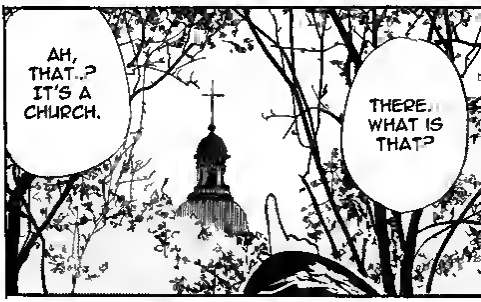
...I OFTEN WENT FLOWER VIEWING WITH MY OLDER SISTER...
...SHE WAS VERY PRETTY ...
...ABOUT AS MUCH AS CLAUDE-SAMA...

...LOOKS LIKE IT ACTUALLY WORKED, ALRIGHT.
.....
SHONE ... -ONEE-SAMA...
...IS MY SISTER AROUND?


AH, THE OLD MEMORIES. AND HERE I THOUGHT SHE'D SUP-PRESSED THEM...
.. SHE'S NOT IMMUNE TO NOST-ALGIA, AFTER ALL.
.....
I'LL GO BUY SOME WATER.

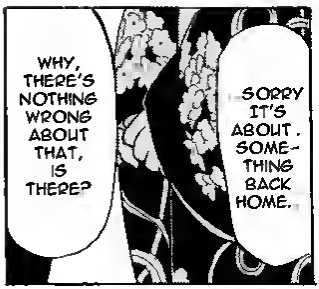






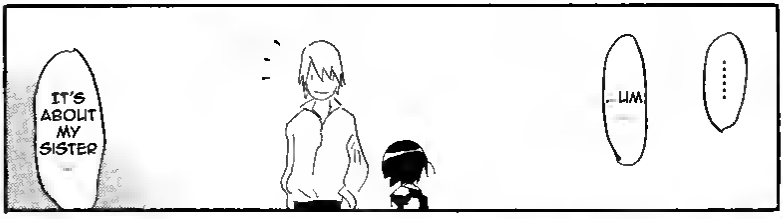
TN: YUNE CLAPS HER HANDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SHINTO RITUAL, WHERE SUCH A GESTURE IS MEANT TO DRAW THE SPIRITS' ATTENTION.

.....
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
...I'M MEETING THE KAMI-SAMA OF PARIS
...FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, AN INTRODUCTION WAS IN ORDER
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE KAMI-SAMA OF PARIS? IT'S NOT LIKE HE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE
I GOT IT WRONG, THAT'S IT?!
AH... THAT MEANS ...


WHY, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG ABOUT THAT, IS THERE?
SORRY IT'S ABOUT . SOMETHING BACK HOME.

WHAT IS IT YOU WERE ASKING FOR?
...NO, IT'S NOTHING ...

I CAN FORGET ABOUT MY REQUEST, THEN .. I SUPPOSE
YOUR REQUEST?

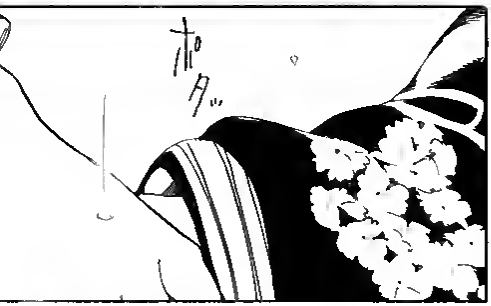

IT'S ABOUT MY SISTER
..UM

?

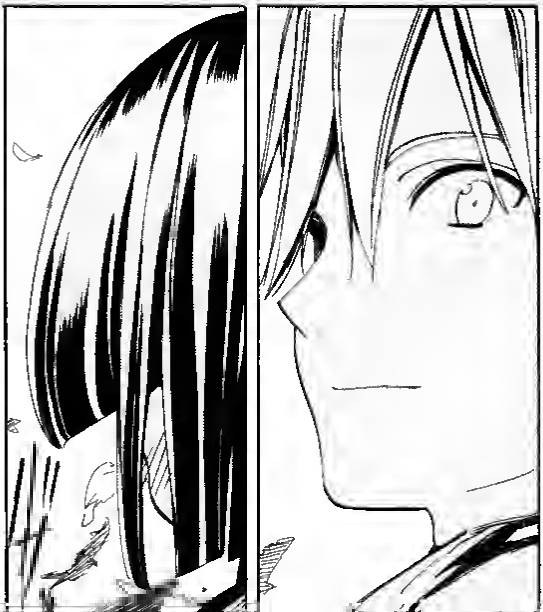
..NEE
I WANTED... TO PRAY FOR HER GOOD HEALTH...

YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, DID YOU?
AND I'M SORRY
COME ON, IT'S ALL RIGHT

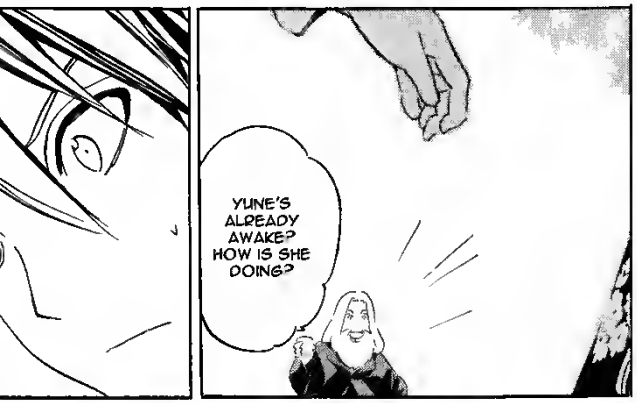
...I'LL DO WHATEVER I...
I WON'T ASK AGAIN.
EVEN WITHOUT A WORD FROM YOU...

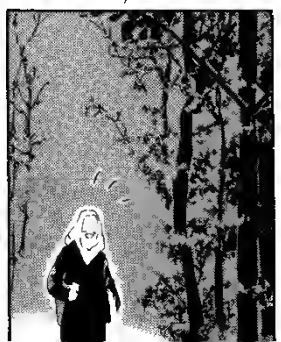


HM? IT'S RAINING AGAIN?



HELL-OOO!
I'M BRINGING SOME WATER.


YUNE'S ALREADY AWAKE? HOW IS SHE DOING?



!?

...YUNE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO KNOW EVERY LAST LITTLE THING.
...WHAT IS IT, CLAUDE?
.....!
...WHAT IS IT...
DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR SISTER
...THAT HAPPENED EARLIER?
.....
I'O LIKE TO KNOW. PLEASE FILL ME IN.
.....!
MY SISTER.. ACTUALLY LOST HER EYESIGHT.
WHEN I WAS A LITTLE CHILD.. I MADE A WISH AND IT WAS FULFILLED...
.....
.....?
CLAUDE?

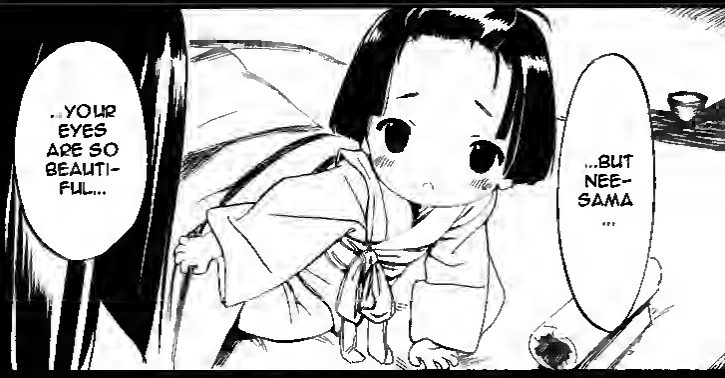
HER EYES WERE OUT OF THE ORDINARY, YOU SEE ...
YUNE? DO SUCH A THING? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
!!
A LOT LIKE CLAUDE-SAMA'S EYES..
THEY WERE A... BEAUTIFUL, PALE SEA BLUE...
I... I MADE HER SICKLY AND WEAK..!
.....!!
...SO I STOLE... I STOLE THE LIGHT AWAY FROM HER..!
AND BECAUSE OF THAT ABNORMALITY... PEOPLE AROUND US WERE AFRAID...
BUT... SOME DAY...
MY SISTER... ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF ME..
BACK THEN... I WAS THE WEAK AND SICKLY ONE ...

I DON'T WANT TO SEE THEIR FACES ANYMORE.

SURE-LY...
...LOOKING AT THESE EYES OF MINE WILL INVITE DISASTER.

...IS THE SMILES VANISHING FROM PEOPLE'S FACES... ALL AT ONCE.
WHENEVER I OPEN MY EYES.. THE ONLY THING THEY SHOW ME..

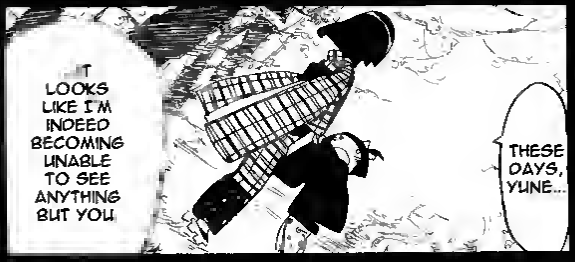
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS SO, YUNE.
.....
.....


..YOUR EYES ARE SO BEAUTI-FUL...
...BUT NEE-SAMA ...

ME AND NOTHING ELSE.
SO JUST LOOK AT ME, NEE-SAMA

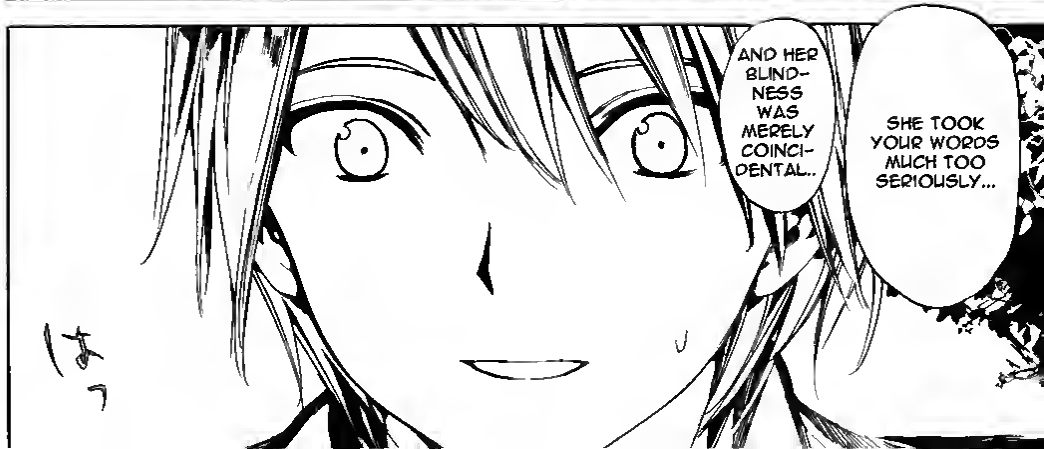
THIS WAY, YOU'LL NEVER SEE THE TERFFIFIED EXPRESSIONS OF THOSE PEOPLE AGAIN!
I'LL CAST A SPELL ON YOU...
...THAT YOUR EYES MIGHT SEE ME AND NOTHING ELSE!
MY SISTER PRETENDED THAT SHE COULDN'T SEE.
FROM THAT DAY FORWARD WE SHARED A SECRET...
WHAT'S WRONG, NEE-SAMA?
...MY HEALTH COND-ITION... STARTED TO IMPROVE... WHILE HERS GOT INCR-EASINGLY WORSE...
SINCE THAT DAY...
AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE... WHO EVER LOOKED UPON HER EYES.

EVERY-
THING
ELSE
LOOKS
SO
HAZY.
……!


IT
LOOKS
LIKE I'M
INDEED
BECOMING
UNABLE
TO SEE
ANYTHING
BUT YOU.
THESE
DAYS,
YUNE...

NEE-
SAMA
...!
IT'S FINE...
I'M HAPPIER
THAT WAY.
IN SHORT
ORDER...
I'LL BECOME
TRULY UNABLE...
TO SEE
ANYTHING...

COME ON.
THAT'S
MERELY
SOMETHING
YOU TOLD
YOUR SISTER
OUT OF
AFFECTION.
……?

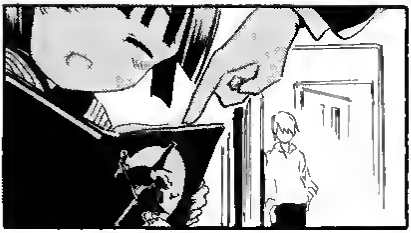

AND HER
BLIND-
NESS
WAS
MERELY
COINCI-
DENTAL..
SHE TOOK
YOUR WORDS
MUCH TOO
SERIOUSLY...

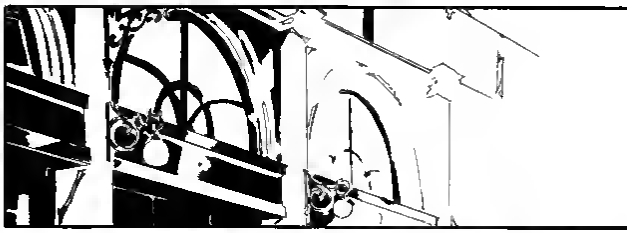
...FURTHER-MORE, YOUR SISTER ACTUALLY TOLD ME ABOUT THIS.
EVEN NOW THAT SHE CAN'T SEE...
...YOUR WORDS ARE LIKE A SOURCE OF LIGHT TO HER.
.....
...THAT'S A LIE SHE CAME UP WITH.
.. SHE'S A GENTLE SOUL...
YOU THINK YOU STOLE AWAY YOUR SISTER'S GOOD HEALTH AND EYESIGHT, THAT'S IT?
...IT MIGHT BE TRUE ...
...THAT YOUR WORDS HAD SOME KIND OF MAGICAL PROPERTY TO THEM.
BECAUSE OF... WHAT I SAID...
YOU'LL SEE NOTHING BUT ME, NEE-SAMA.

I'VE BEEN NOTHING... BUT A SOURCE OF TROUBLE TO MY SISTER...
I WANTED... TO DO SOMETHING USEFUL...!
...NOW LISTEN.
YOUR WORDS HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF LIGHT..
YOUR SISTER'S WORDS, NOT MINE.
TRY TO REMEMBER.
UNTIL THEN ...
...SHE'D BEEN TOILING ALL ALONE.
I CAN IMAGINE HOW HAPPY..
..THOSE WORDS YOU SAID MADE HER.
THIS ISN'T A LIE
YOUR SISTER SHARED HER GOOD HEALTH WITH YOU...
...IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LIGHT YOU'D GIVEN HER.

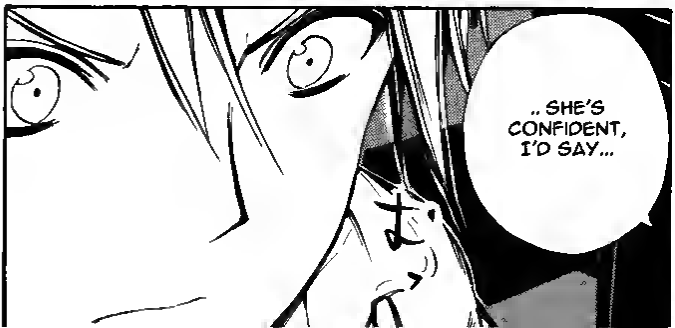
.....
OSCAR-SAMA?
HM?
..DID YOU JUST ...
...USE YOUR MAGIC ON ME?
HAHA
GOOD JOB NOTIC-ING.
OSCAR-SAMA YOU'RE AMAZING ...
I'M FEELING SO MUCH BETTER.. ALL OF A SUDDEN

COULD I EVER ...
...LEARN TO USE MAGIC.. JUST LIKE YOU.?



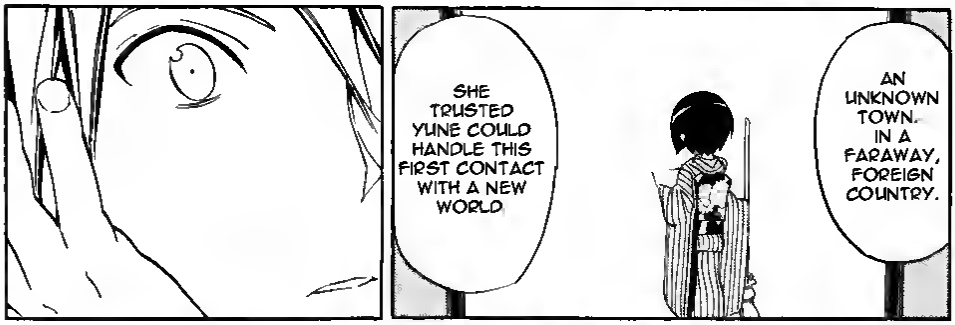


SO... YUNE'S SISTER SENT HER ABROAD, DID SHE? FOR SOMEONE WHO CARED, THAT'S ODD.


.. SHE'S CONFIDENT, I'D SAY...

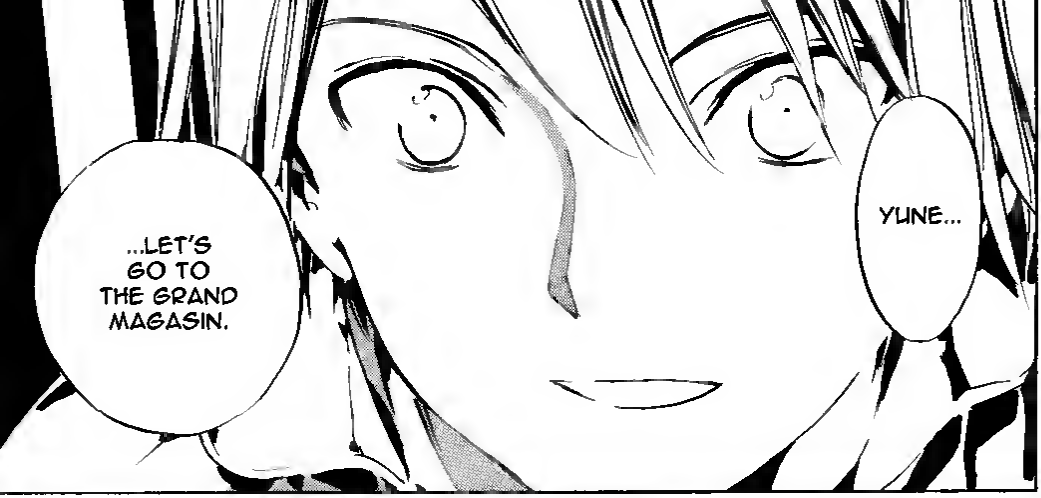
.....

IN A COUNTRY SHE'S NEVER SEEN OR EVEN HEARD OF?
IS EVERYONE SO GULLIBLE IN THAT COUNTRY?
.....
...IN YUNE.
.....?


AN UNKNOWN TOWN. IN A FARAWAY, FOREIGN COUNTRY.
SHE TRUSTED YUNE COULD HANDLE THIS FIRST CONTACT WITH A NEW WORLD

IT'S EASY TO TRUST THAT WHICH STANDS RIGHT NEXT TO YOU.

PUTTING YUNE IN MY CARE...
...TOOK SOME SERIOUS RESOLVE ON HER SISTER'S PART...
OOOOH YOU LOOK A LOT MORE LIKE A MAGIC USER, NOW
GET YOURSELF A BLACK CAT, AND YOU'LL BE GOOD TO GO.
...YUNE.
..CLAUDE-SAMA
...YOU THINK YOU CAN ACTUALLY DO MAGIC?
...UH-UM... BUT... IT'S NOT VERY EASY...
..I'M WILLING TO WORK AT IT...
IS THAT SO?


YUNE...
...LET'S GO TO THE GRAND MAGASIN.

THIS IS WHERE...
...MY FATHER DIED.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

THE SOONER, THE BETTER, YES? TOMORROW.
AND NOT FOR ALICE'S BRO-THER.
.....
WELL.... I...
!
GO WITH ME PLEASE.
THE GRAND MAGASIN. YOU WANTED TO GO, DID YOU NOT?
DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO ALLOW MY COWARDICE ...
...TO ROB HER OF HER OPPORTUNITIES?

YES.
I'LL BE HAPPY TO ACCOMPANY YOU.
ｵﾝｯ…

PARTIE VIII. GRAND MAGASIN

LISTEN UP.
WE'RE GOING TO THE GRAND MAGASIN
IT'S A DANGER-OUS PLACE..
PICKPOCKETS SHOPLIFTING, BURGLARY, ABDUCTIONS. YOU NAME IT.
SEVERAL YEARS AGO...
...AN-OTHER GRAND MAG-ASIN EVEN BURN-ED TO THE GROU-ND.
THE KIND OF HORRI-FYING SCENE THAT PEOPLE CAN'T FORGET
BUT THAT GIGANTIC BUILDING ...
...REMAINS A MON-STER THAT SWAL-LOWS CROWDS OF TRANS-FIXED SOULS TO THIS DAY.
...IF YOU GET LOST IN THERE, IT'S OVER
.....
THE GRAND MAGASIN HAS BEEN TAKING CLIENTELE AWAY FROM US, SO CLAUDE REGARDS THEM AS THE ENEMY.

YUNE YOU NEED TO CHANGE YOUR FOOT-WEAR
FOR SOME-THING A LOT NOISIER
.....
LIKE THE GETA?
JUST IN CASE I LOOSE SIGHT OF YOU, THE SOUND SHOULD HELP ME FIND YOU AGAIN
VERY WELL ..!
CLAU-DE..
YOU'RE BEING EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS, AREN'T YOU
I WAS CONSIDERING TYING BELLS TO HER NECK, TO BE HONEST
!
HA HA ..
DON'T TORMENT THE POOR KITTEN
WHO BROUGHT THE CAT ALONG IN THE FIRST PLACE, EH..?

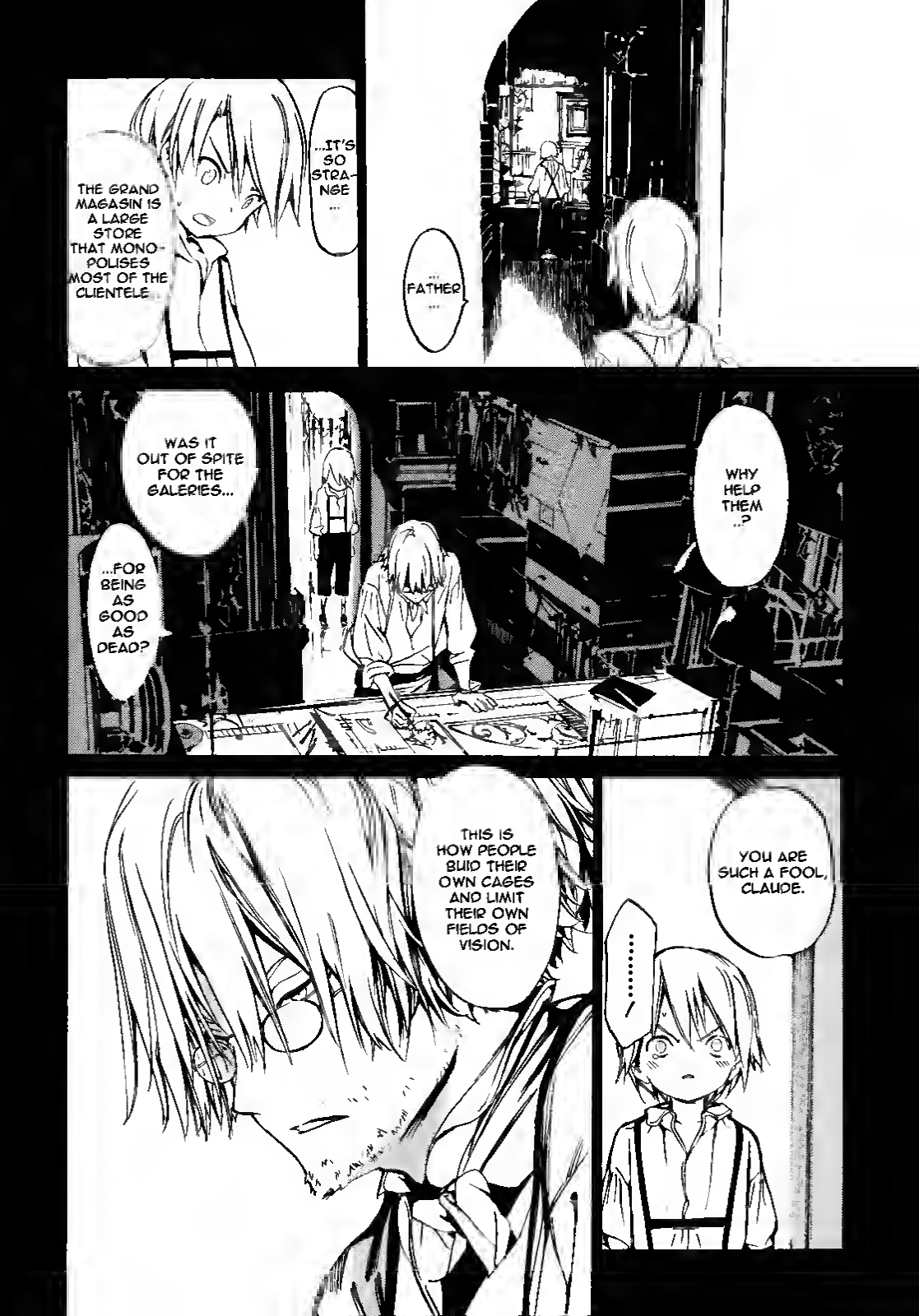
19TH-CENTURY PARIS BORE WITNESS TO THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW, GIGANTIC EMPORIUM...
...THE GRAND MAG-ASIN.
THIS DEPARTMENT STORE USHERED THE WORLD TOWARDS CONSUMER SOCIETY...

...EVENTUALLY BECOMING A SHOPPING DISTRICT KNOWN AS THE ARCADE.
...AND THE SMALL, FAMILY-HELD TRADES OF OLD...
...WERE SUCCESSIVELY RUN OUT OF BUSINESS.

SO MANY PEOPLE ....
WOO-OW...
YOU'LL FIND PLENTY MORE OF SUCH PARLOR TRICKS INSIDE.
AS CUSTOMERS CROWD THE PLACE, IT CREATES THE ILLUSION THAT THE STORE IS FULL OF PEOPLE.
.....?
AS LARGE AS IT IS INSIDE, THEY MADE THE ENTRANCE TINY.
I'LL BE THERE TO PICK YOU UP. YOU CAN COUNT ON IT
I
IF YOU EVER GET LOST, GO NEXT TO THE ENTRANCE, OR THE STAIRS.
.....
ザワ
ザワ
COME ON IN WE GO.
ギュ
..YES!

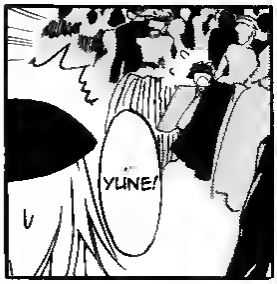
WOOW ... THIS IS BEAUT-IFUL..!
THE CEILING ..!
COM-PARED TO THE GALERIES... IT ALL LOOKS SO BIG
.....
MY FATHER ... HE WAS ONE OF THE ENGINEERS WHO HELPED DESIGN THE PLACE.

...HE WAS ? BUT I THOUGHT THE GRAND MAGASIN AND THE GALERIES WERE
THEY ARE. STR-ANGE, ISN'T IT?
EXTENDING HELP TO A BUSINESS COMPET-ITOR.


...IT'S SO STRANGE ...
THE GRAND MAGASIN IS A LARGE STORE THAT MONOPOLISES MOST OF THE CLIENTELE
... FATHER ...
WHY HELP THEM ..?
WAS IT OUT OF SPITE FOR THE GALERIES...
...FOR BEING AS GOOD AS DEAD?
THIS IS HOW PEOPLE BUID THEIR OWN CAGES AND LIMIT THEIR OWN FIELDS OF VISION.
YOU ARE SUCH A FOOL, CLAUDE.
.....!

THE LAST TIME I CAME HERE ...
...THIS BUILDING WAS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION
FATHER HAD BROUGHT ME ALONG TO SHOW ME HIS WORK
I WILL ...
...PROTECT THE GALERIES!
...AND AS LONG AS YOU CAN MAKE IT WHERE IT'S BIG, EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT THAT'S IT?
YOU WOULD ABANDON THE GALERIES ...
.. I WILL PROTECT IT.
I WON'T BECOME LIKE YOU.
.....

WH-OA!!


YUNE!

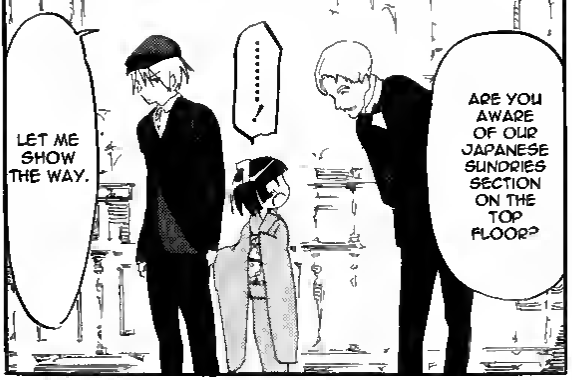
I'M SOR-RY...
DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR ME TO ALMOST LOSE SIGHT OF YOU...

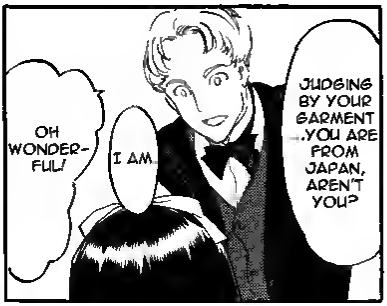
WE CAME HERE FOR YOU, DID WE NOT?
LET'S TAKE A LOOK

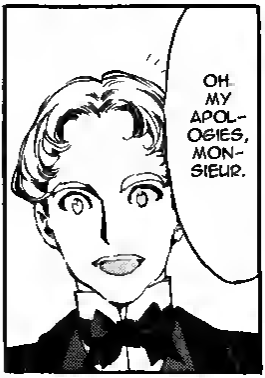
THE SILKS FLOOR, EH

.....
HM?
WAS SOME-THING THE MATTER?

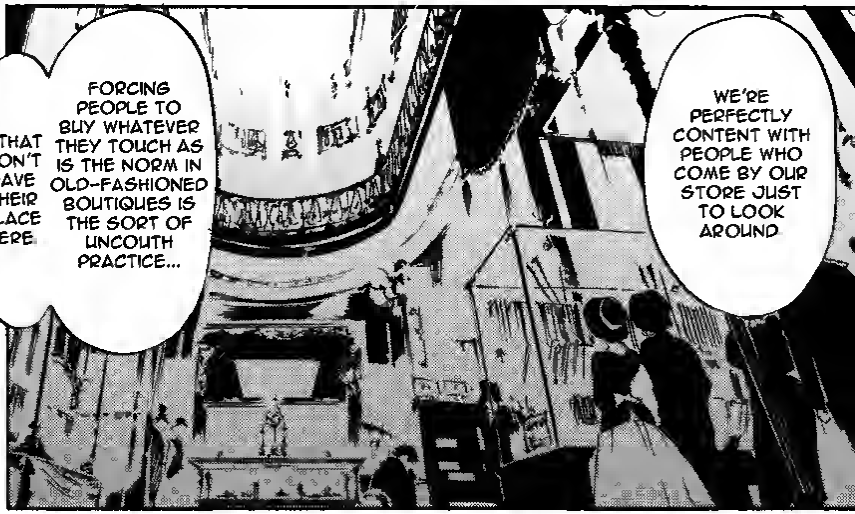
YES.!
THIS IS THE GLO-VES FLO-OR
ANO THERE, THE LACES PRESU-MABLY
OH.. OOOH ...
SO MANY THINGS...
EASY, THERE
I MEAN COME ON.
LEST YOU BE-COME ...
EVEN BIGGER AN AT-TRACTION THAN THE SHOP ITSELF...
WHAT A STR-ANGE DRESS ON THAT GIRL.
IS THAT SILK, SHE'S WEAR-ING?
MADE-MOIS-ELLE!


LET ME SHOW THE WAY.
!
ARE YOU AWARE OF OUR JAPANESE SUNDRIES SECTION ON THE TOP FLOOR?


OH WONDERFUL!
I AM.
JUDGING BY YOUR GARMENT ...YOU ARE FROM JAPAN, AREN'T YOU?

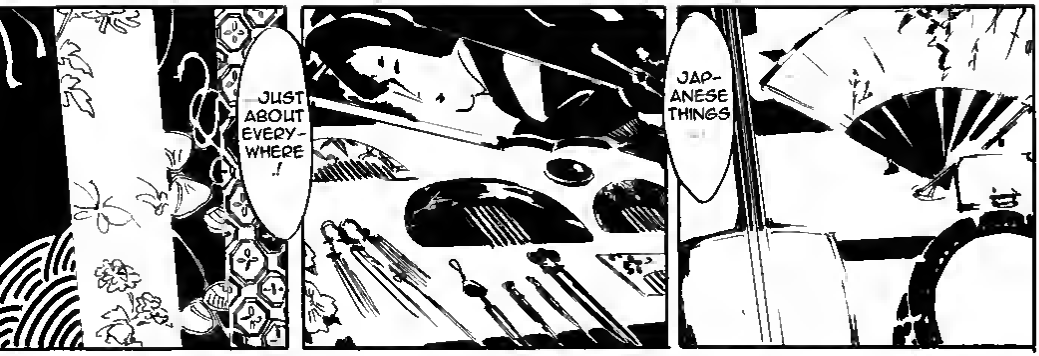

OH MY APOLOGIES, MONSIEUR.

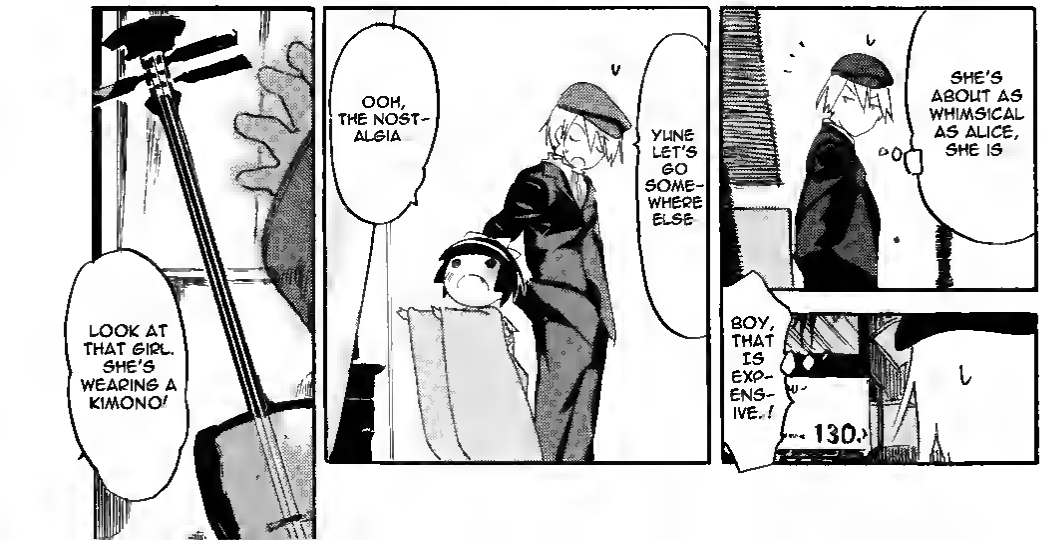
TAKE HER THERE IF YOU LIKE, BUT WE AREN'T BUYING ANYTHING.
HEY WAIT A MINUTE


...THAT DON'T HAVE THEIR PLACE HERE.
FORCING PEOPLE TO BUY WHATEVER THEY TOUCH AS IS THE NORM IN OLD-FASHIONED BOUTIQUES IS THE SORT OF UNCOUTH PRACTICE...
WE'RE PERFECTLY CONTENT WITH PEOPLE WHO COME BY OUR STORE JUST TO LOOK AROUND

THE JAPANESE ARTICLES ARE FAIRLY POPULAR EVERYONE IS JUST FASCINATED BY THEM

WOOW...!


JUST ABOUT EVERY-WHERE...!
JAP-ANESE THINGS


LOOK AT THAT GIRL. SHE'S WEARING A KIMONO!
OOH, THE NOST-ALGIA
YUNE LET'S GO SOME-WHERE ELSE
SHE'S ABOUT AS WHIMSICAL AS ALICE, SHE IS
BOY, THAT IS EXO-ENS-IVE...!

YES.
YUNE, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
.....!
JUST LIKE ONE OF THOSE JAPANESE DOLLS.
OOOH. THE REAL THING.
WOOOAAAA
INDEED. SHE'S JAPANESE, I PRESUME.
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH!
MADEMOISELLE!
BEAR WITH ME FOR A MINUTE.
..IT'S SNAPPED?
..MY SANDAL'S STRAP
YOU DIDN'T LOOK AT ALL LIKE SOMEONE WHO'D BE FINE.
KEEP QUIET WILL YOU.
..AH..AHEM..! I'LL BE FINE!
IN JAPAN, SANDAL STRAPS SNAPPING IS A SIGN OF BAD LU..

..YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY..
CLAU-DE-SAMA ...
HERE, THE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING FLOOR.
LET'S GET YOU SOME NEW FOOTWEAR.
..THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COST. I CAME PREPARED.
BUT ...
PHEW
ドサ

WHAT THE DEVIL AM I DOING..?
...SIGH.
I'M TIRED...
I WILL.
.PROTECT THE GALERIES!
FOCUSING ALL MY ATTENTION ON TINY DETAILS.
WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING THESE DAYS?
WHAT HAVE I ACCOMPLISHED AT ALL EVER SINCE?
COME TO THINK OF IT... I MEANT TO SURPASS MY FATHER.
..I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING AT ALL.
I'LL PICK UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF.
.BECAUSE I BROKE THE PROMISE I MADE TO HIM...
MY FATHER DIED.

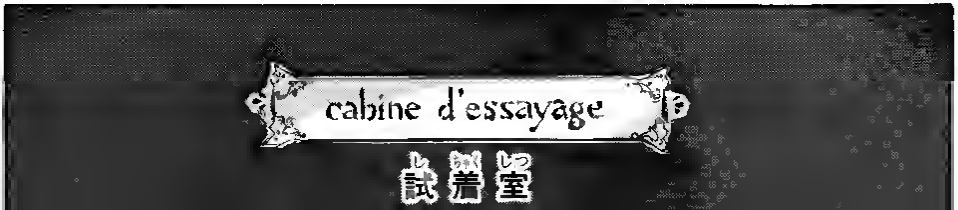
I'D PROMISED NOT TO GO TO A CERTAIN SECTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE
BECAUSE IT WAS DANGEROUS BUT STILL
I WANTED TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF
SO I JUMPED RIGHT INTO IT, BECAUSE "THAT SORT OF THING DIDN'T SCARE ME ANYMORE"
FATH
CLAUDE!
LOOK OUT
HE RECEIVED THAT IRON LUMP TO THE HEAD INSTEAD OF ME AND FELL TO THE GROUND.
HE KEPT HIS EYES ON ME TILL THE VERY END.
I TREMBLED I TREMBLED SO MUCH I COULDN'T EVEN REACH OUT FOR HIM YET HE
HE KEPT LOOKING AT ME TILL HE DIED

THE SHOP
THE GALERIES.
MY FATHER'S CRAFTSMANSHIP.
AND THE SMILE ON MY MOTHER'S FACE...
HUH
EVERYTHING.
I'LL GET IT ALL BACK
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN AT ALL.
I WILL... PROTECT IT ALL.
I DIDN'T INHERIT THE SHOP...
...IN ORDER TO ACT LIKE A BABY SITTER!
AH AAAH! CLOTHING, EH?
FINE
CLAUDE-SAMA ERM.
YOU'RE STANDING OUT WITH THAT KIMOND ON, AREN'T YOU? LET'S BUY YOU SOMETHING ELSE

IT'S NOT... BUT... UM...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M WILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
NO. THAT CAN'T BE IT.
DID EVERY-THING CHANGE SO THOR-OUGHLY EVER SINCE SHE CAME HERE?
...ET MER-DE.
I... I REALLY

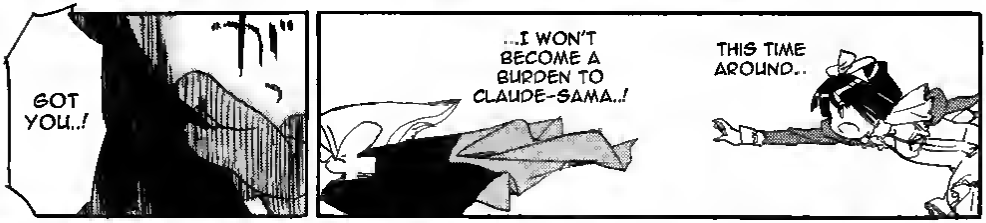
TN: "ET MERDE" - THAT'S FRENCH FOR "OH, SHIT"

SIGN: DRESSING ROOM

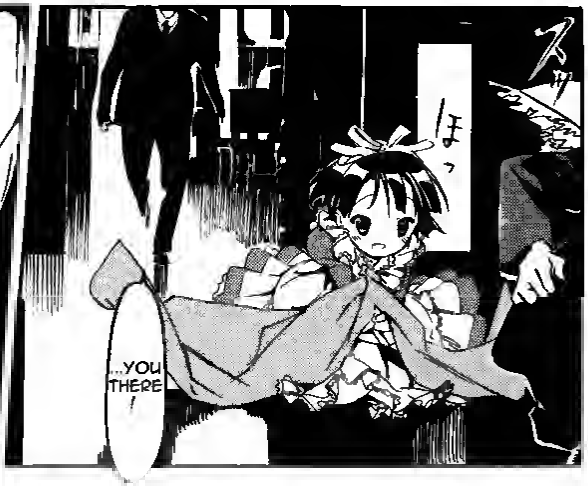


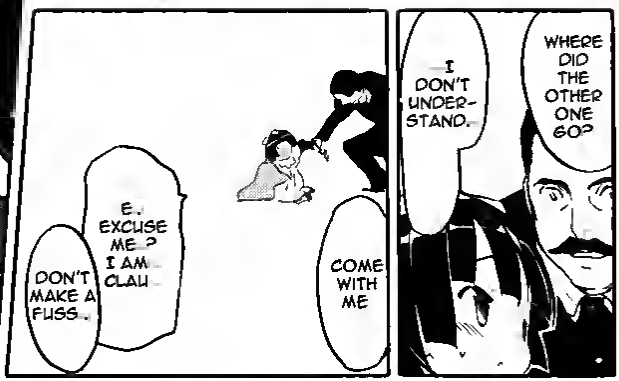
WHAT NOW...?
UH? WHERE'S THE CLERK..?
UM...
CLAUDE-SAMA.
NO..!
GIVE IT BACK..!
MY KIM-ONO...
!!
UH..?

I MADE A BLUNDER JUST LIKE THIS THE LAST TIME..!
STOP..!
THAT PERSON IS A THIEF..!
...HAH!!


"T!"
GOT YOU..!
...I WON'T BECOME A BURDEN TO CLAUDE-SAMA..!
THIS TIME AROUND..

BE QUIET AND FOLLOW ME.
.....!?


ほっ
...YOU THERE!

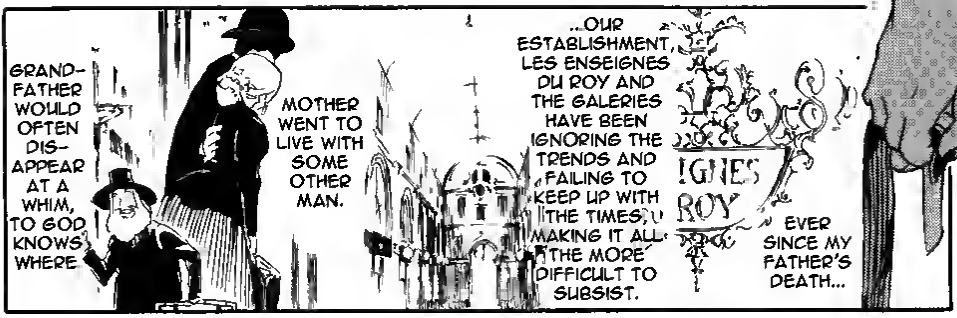

E..EXCUSE ME..? I AM...CLAU...
DON'T MAKE A FUSS..
COME WITH ME
...I DON'T UNDER-STAND..
WHERE DID THE OTHER ONE GO?

THERE ARE ONLY SOME STRAPS REMAINING?
YU.
YUNE?
17
HELLO THE GIRL THAT WAS WITH ME DISAPPEARED FROM THE CABIN..
..SORRY BUT SHE'S BEEN TALKING WITH YOU, SO..
..THAT- THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'D AGREED UPON A RENDEZ-VOUS POINT..
..IN CASE SHE EVER GOT LOST..
.....
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND..! I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
IN THIS PLACE, EVEN A NOBLE-WOMAN WOULD BE TEMPTED TO DO THE WRONG THING.
TO SAY NOTHING OF SOME-ONE LIKE YOU.
SHE DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING ELSE APPAR-ENTLY.

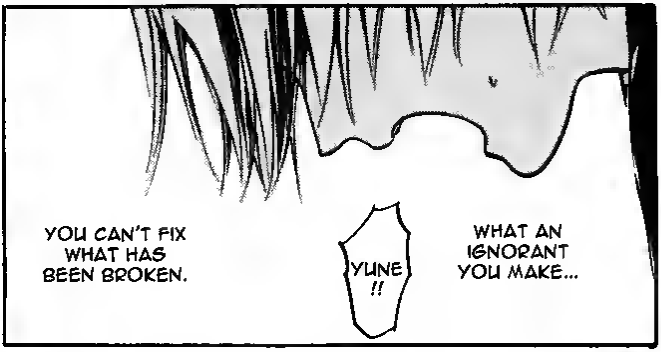
I'M FROM JAPAN!
JAPAN? REALLY?
I AM... IN CLAUDE CLAUDEL-SAMA'S EMPLOY...!
CLAUDEL, EH? PLEASE GIVE US A MINUTE.
A FOREIGN CHILD OF UNKNOWN ORIGINS.
LISTEN TO ME!
I NEED TO RETURN QUICK.
WHAT NOW? IS THAT ANOTHER PRANK WITH THE ALARM BELL?
GO CHECK IT OUT!
YES SIR.
CAREFUL. HER ACCOMPLICE MIGHT STILL BE AROUND.

WHAT..?
A FIRE STARTED FROM THE CAFETERIA ON THE TOP FLOOR!
FIRE !!
RUN AWAY !!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS
NOW OF ALL TIMES!
……
……!
カラン

IF YOU EVER GET LOST, GO NEXT TO THE ENTRANCE, OR THE STAIRS.
THE SHOES BROKE IN A HEARTBEAT, UNABLE TO DO THE JOB LIKE THE BELLS WOULD HAVE.
TO THINK I WANTED TO GIVE HER BELLS... WHAT WAS I SO REASSURED ABOUT?
カラン
I'VE BEEN USELESS AT PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING.
IN THE END, I MERELY CAUSED DISASTER THROUGH MY FAILURES.
IT WAS TOO AMBIGUOUS A CHOICE OF LOCATION TO BEGIN WITH.
SHE'S UNLIKELY TO BE WAITING FOR ME THERE, BY NOW.
YOU ARE SUCH A FOOL, CLAUDE.


GRAND-FATHER WOULD OFTEN DIS-APPEAR AT A WHIM, TO GOD KNOWS WHERE
MOTHER WENT TO LIVE WITH SOME OTHER MAN.
..OUR ESTABLISHMENT, LES ENSEIGNES DU ROY AND THE GALERIES HAVE BEEN IGNORING THE TRENDS AND FAILING TO KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES, MAKING IT ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO SUBSIST.
!GNES
ROY
.. EVER SINCE MY FATHER'S DEATH...

.. IT IS A MADNESS TO THINK YOU CAN ACCOM-PLISH ANYTHING
IGNORANT AS YOU ARE!


YOU CAN'T FIX WHAT HAS BEEN BROKEN.
YUNE !!
WHAT AN IGNORANT YOU MAKE...

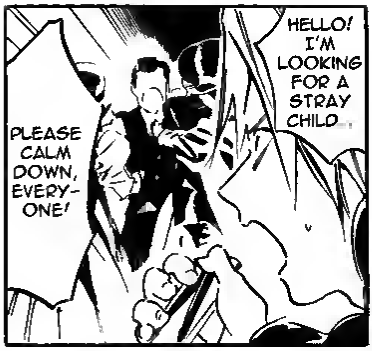
DON'T JUST VANISH INTO THIN AIR LIKE THIS.
WHERE ARE YOU ?!
DON'T GIVE ME ANY MORE CAUSE TO WORRY.
YUNE!

YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL ENOUGH!
I WARNED YOU, DIDN'T I?

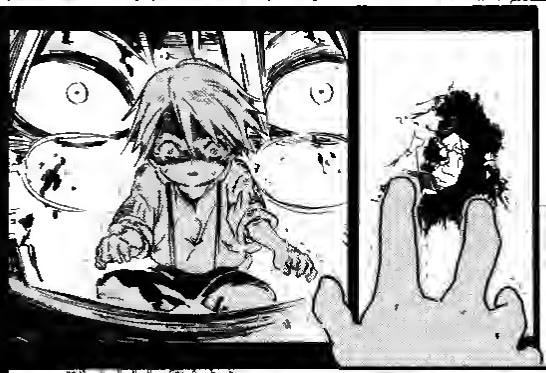
.....?
IT'S SMOKING UP THERE..!
STOP THE FIRE, QUICK!
GET AN EXTI-NGU-ISHER!
.....!
ANYBODY HERE..?!
FIRE..!
OPEN UP! SOME-BODY..!
ガチャ
OPEN THE DOOR PLEASE..!
.....!
...ANOTHER GRAND MAGASIN BURNED TO THE GROUND.
SEVERAL YEARS AGO...

CLAU.
...IS THAT IT? I CAN NEVER SEE ANYONE AGAIN?
O-KAA-SAMA
...NEE-SAMA
IN A MOM-ENT LIKE THIS...
AM I ABOUT TO SAY FAREWELL JUST LIKE THIS...
...I'VE BEEN A TERRIBLE GIRL...
...CAUSING TROUBLE TO MY EMPLOYER WHILE AT IT..?
...HAPPENS TO BE IN PAIN...
IF ONE DAY, SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO YOU...

LOCK AWAY YOUR OWN WANTS AND NEEDS...
トン...
...AND PLAY THE SHAMISEN WITHOUT A WORD
WITHOUT SAYING A WORD ...?
ポロン
THAT'S RIGHT. MOTHER TAUGHT ME THIS.
テテン...
A WOMAN'S SILENCE IS HER SOLICITUDE.
テテン
シャン...
SILENTLY...
LETTING ONLY YOUR FEELINGS GO THROUGH.



PLEASE CALMLY EVACUATE DOWN-STAIRS!
WE'RE DOING OUR ABSOLUTE BEST TO KEEP THINGS UNDER CONTROL!
IT'S JUST FEW TINY LITTLE FLAM-ES!



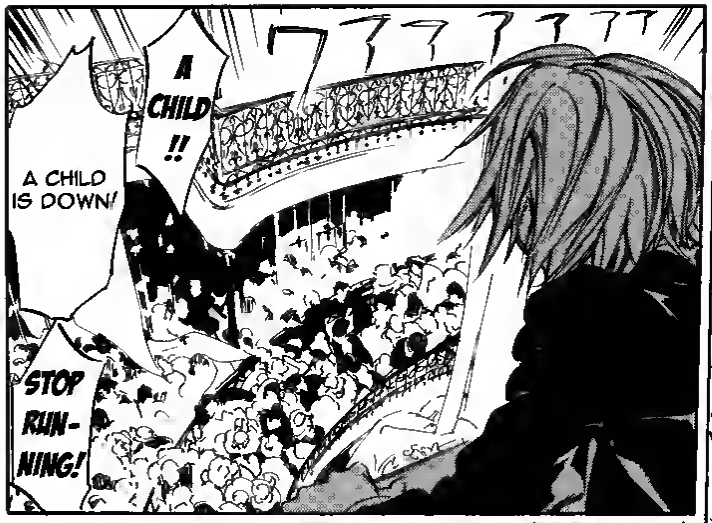
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE...

QUICK...

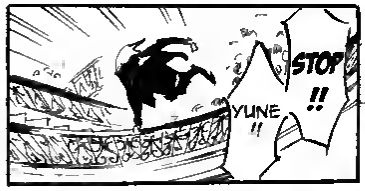
MY FATHER IS JUDGING ME!!
DON T JUDGE YOUR FATHER TOO HARSHLY
I SEE.
HE KEPT STARING AT ME.. UNTIL THE VERY END..
HE MUST HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS THE WHOLE TIME
THE HATE IN HIS EYES ..
YOU WERE MORE PRECIOUS TO YOUR FATHER THAN ANYTHING ELSE..
...AND THIS, UNTIL THE VERY END.
STOP TRYING TO COMFORT ME.
IT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS TRUE ..
GRANDFATHER HAS A WAY WITH WORDS...
..AND HE PROVES IT YET AGAIN.

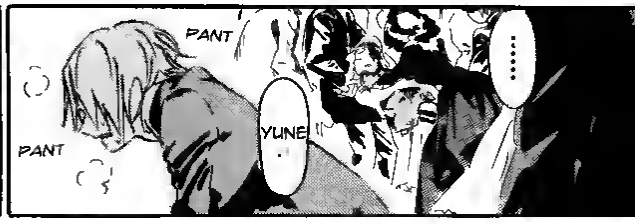
I DON'T KNOW IF I'VE BEEN USEFUL FOR ANYTHING EVEN ONCE IN MY LIFE...
...BUT THIS TIME AROUND... ...I WANT TO PLAY MY PART, HOWEVER SMALL.
...MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'VE WON THE LOTTERY, YOU KNOW?
JUST THE FACT THAT YOU'RE FINE, AND HERE WITH US...
...IT MAKES ME ALL THE CRUEL AND DESPICABLE FOR BETRAYING HIM.
I MUST RETURN TO CLAUDE-SAMA...
...SAFE AND SOUND...

I'LL BE FINE
A BIT MORE
JUST A LITTLE MORE
AH ..!

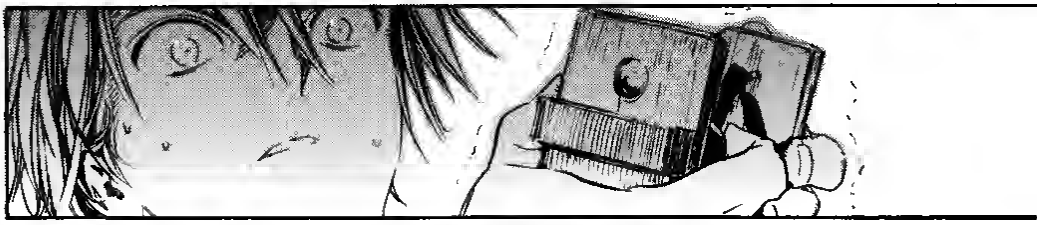


SFX: WAAAAAAH!



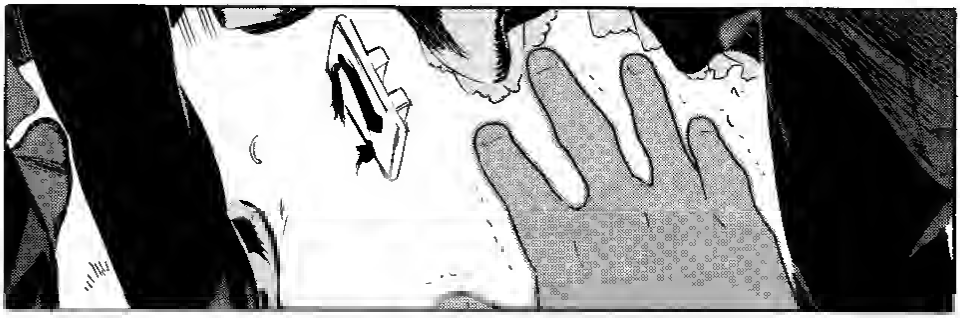


MON-SIEUR, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
HE'S TREMB-LING LIKE A LEAF.
IT'S ALRIGHT. I AM MERELY SCARED BECAUSE IT ALL REMINDS ME OF MY FATHER.
I AM WELL... MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'M LOOKING FOR A STRAY CHILD.
WHERE DID YUNE DISAPPEAR TO THIS TIME?
SHE WORE THESE, AND NOW I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS.
.....?



THEY'RE JUST A PAIR OF SLIGHTLY DIRTIED LUMPS OF WOOD.

...I AM THE ONLY ONE TO WHOM THEY HELD ANY VALUE.
IN THIS IMMENSE BUILDING...



CALMLY HEAD TOWARDS THE EXIT!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE DON'T RUN!

YOU ARE SUCH A FOOL, CLAUDE.
PLEASE DON'T PUSH!!
WE HAVE WOUNDED! OPEN THE WAY!!

I'M AS AFRAID AS EVER...
...BUT AS FOR THE TREMBLING ITSELF...
...BUT NOW I'M CARRYING SOMETHING EVEN SMALLER AND FRAGILE THAN I AM.
YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT. I'M JUST AS SMALL AND HELPLESS AS BACK THEN...
A CHILD'S DOWN..!
DON'T RUN, IT'S DANGEROUS! YOU MIGHT FALL OVER!!
...I'M NOT SCARED OF MY FATHER ANYMORE.

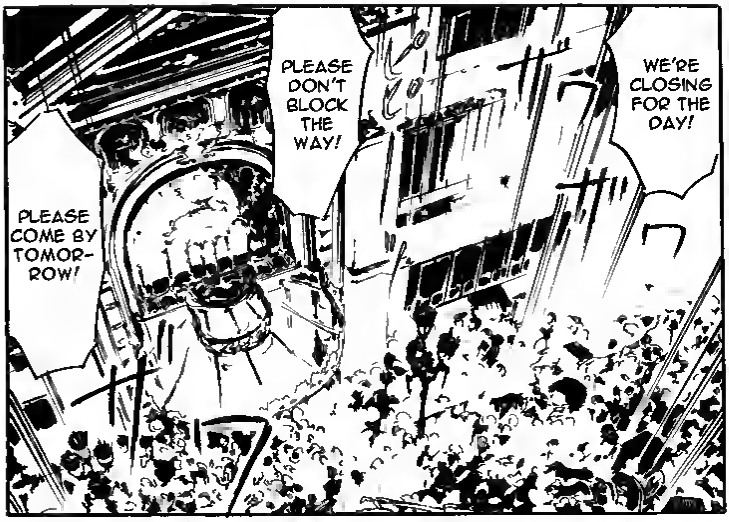
"I'LL BE THERE TO PICK YOU UP. YOU CAN COUNT ON IT.", I SAID.
YUNE!!
I MUST FOLLOW THROUGH UNTIL THE END.
EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL!!
PLEASE CALM DOWN!
IT'S ALRIGHT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! WE'VE PUT OUT THE FIRE!
I MUST STAY TRUE TO MY WORD
MOST OF THE THIEVES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE COMMOTION TO ESCAPE!
RETRIEVE THEM!
WITH CLAUDE-SAMA GONE... NO ONE'S GOING TO TRUST ME
OH NO... I CAN'T LET THEM FIND ME

CAPTURE ANY SUSPECTS!
LET'S CALL IT A DAY AND CLOSE THE BUILDING!
YUNE!! WHERE ARE YOU?
ANSWER ME!!
NO, IT DOES NOT HURT...
UUU-NGH...
OUCH...

I CAN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING...
EVEN AS I TRY TO BE USEFUL... I END UP CAUSING CLAUDE-SAMA TROUBLE...

I COULD FEEL IT SHAKING FAINTLY.
HIS HAND...
.....

CLAU-DE-SAMA...
IF THAT MEANS... I CAN TURN OUT TO BE USEFUL IN THE END...
...I DON'T MIND BEING FOUND...
.....
...SORRY, I'M BOR-ROWING THIS.


PLEASE COME BY TOMOR-ROW!
PLEASE DON'T BLOCK THE WAY!
WE'RE CLOSING FOR THE DAY!

UGH!

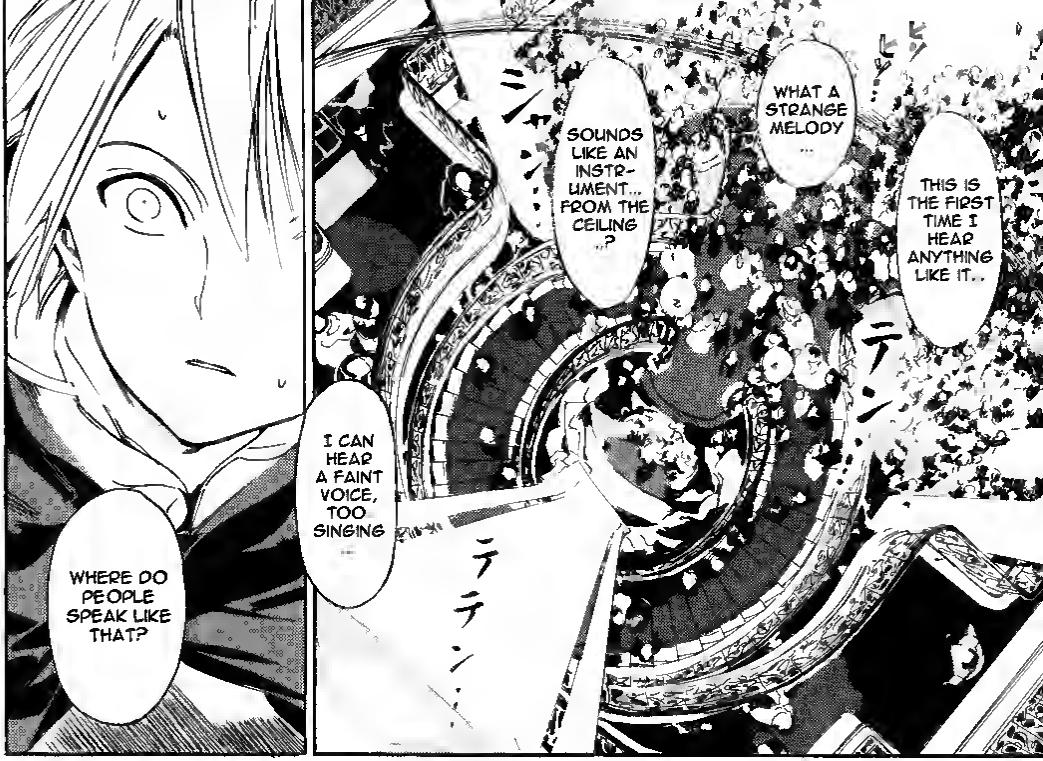
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE!
WE'LL CON-TACT YOU THERE WITH ANY NEWS
YOU LET US HANDLE THINGS FOR NOW, AND GO HOME.
THERE'S A LOST CHILD IN THERE, YOU HEAR ME!

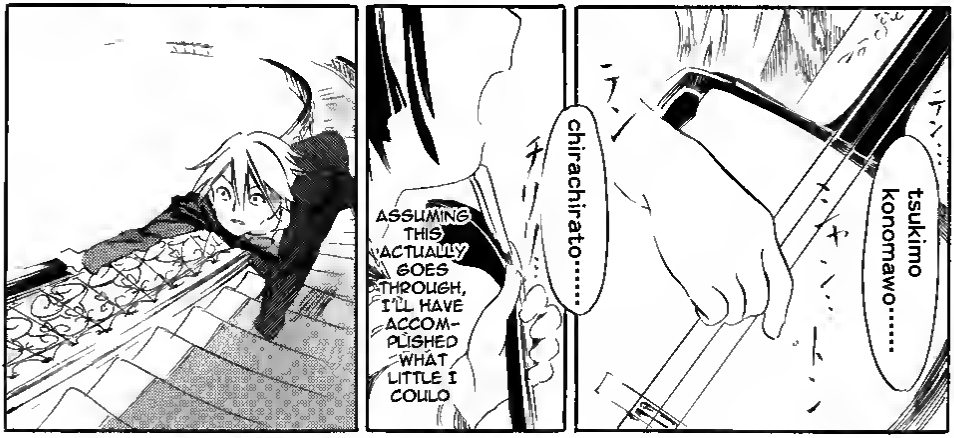
LET ME GO!

...THE FIRE MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXTINGUISHED, BUT THE BUILDING IS STILL FULL OF POTENTIALLY LETHAL GAS. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
IT'D BE SUICIDAL TO GO AGAINST THIS STAMPEDING CROWD!
IN ADD-ITION

YES
EVEN MORE LIKELY TO KILL THAN THE FLAMES THEMSELVES
LETHAL ...?

OPEN THE WAY !!
AAAH !!
OUCH! DON'T PUSH!
I DON'T HAVE THE FIRST CLUE... BUT STILL... I NEED TO SEARCH EVERY-WHERE.
NOW..
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME TO GO!
MONSIEUR!
I'LL BE THERE TO PICK YOU UP. YOU CAN COUNT ON IT.
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE...
PLEASE LET ME THR-OUGH !!
I HAVE A PRO-MISE TO KEEP ..!!
HEY, WHAT'S THAT, OVER THERE?
WHAT IS THAT NOISE?
WHAT'S GOING ON? SO SUD-DENLY..
.....?
SILENCE


WHERE DO PEOPLE SPEAK LIKE THAT?
I CAN HEAR A FAINT VOICE, TOO SINGING
SOUNDS LIKE AN INSTR-UMENT... FROM THE CEILING?
WHAT A STRANGE MELODY...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HEAR ANYTHING LIKE IT..
テン
テテン...



TN "AMONGST THE TREES, THE MOON ITSELF IS A FLUTTERING (PRESENCE)"

I NEVER KNEW SHE COULD MAKE SUCH STRANGE MUSIC.
WHAT POSSESSED ME TO MAKE SUCH A PROMISE?
POURING ALL MY FEELINGS INTO IT.
I DIDN'T EVEN SPARE A THOUGHT FOR WHAT SHE COULD DO.
I NEVER KNEW HER TO BE SO ADAPTABLE AND CLEVER ...
ニテ…
ンャン…
tomanohune…
EVEN THOUGH I WASN'T AWARE OF IT.
TURNS OUT SO MANY THINGS WERE GOING THROUGH HER HEAD.
AS SMALL AS SHE IS...
トン…
シャン…
ニテン…

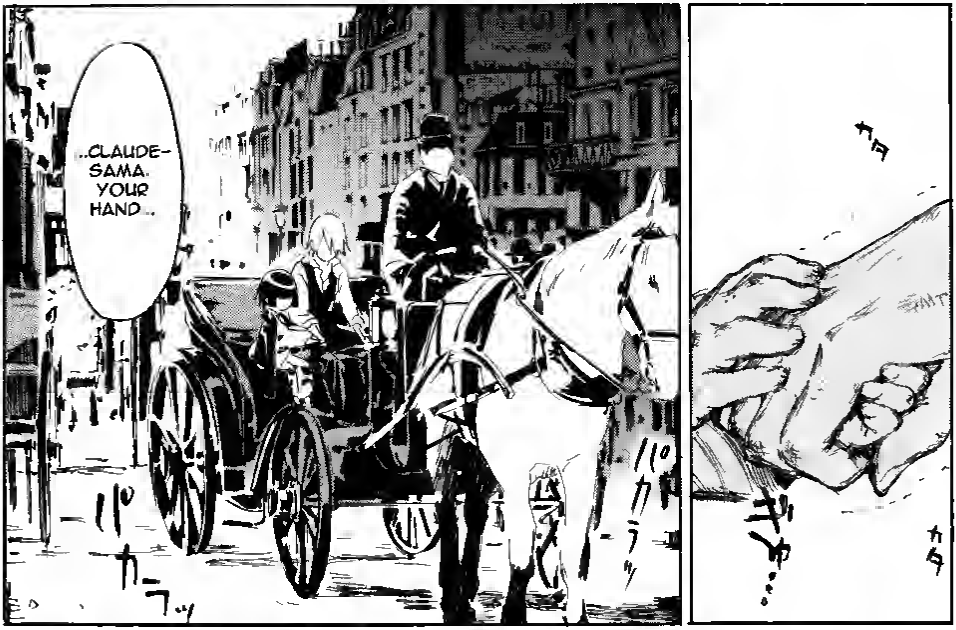
FORGIVE MY IGNORANCE.
VERY WELL. I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE DONE PLAYING
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT
テン…
テン…
テテン…
WITH MY BLINDERS ON, I JUST COULDN'T SEE IT.
IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL, WHEN YOU COME DOWN TO IT...
オリリ…
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF HER AS A CAT, OR SOME KIND OF DOLL.
シャ…
JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN PARIS...
I WAS THE ONE WHO NEEDED TO CHANGE THE MOST ...
WE'RE SO CLOSE TO THE CEILING.
テテン…
……
YUNE... LET'S GO HOME.
SOMETHING WAS WRONG, AND NOW I KNOW WHAT IT WAS
JUST IN CASE I LOOSE SIGHT OF YOU, THE SOUND SHOULD HELP ME FIND YOU AGAIN.
GO NEXT TO THE ENTRANCE, OR THE STAIRS.
...IF YOU GET LOST IN THERE, IT'S OVER.
I WAS CONSIDERING TYING BELLS TO HER NECK, TO BE HONEST.
シャリ…
……
テン…

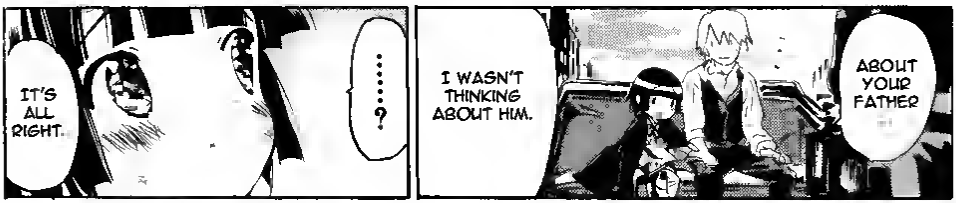
I WAS THE LITTLE ONE FOR WANTING TO MAKE HER WEAR A BELL OR SOME SUCH PET'S COLLAR
I WAS TOO BUSY WALLOWING IN MY OWN WORRIES AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
EFFEC-TIVE IMMED-IATELY...
...YOU CAN CONSIDER YOURSELF FREE.

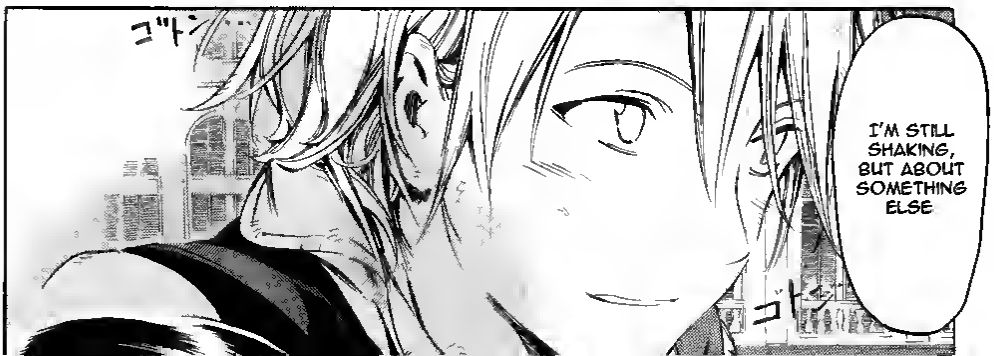
SILENTLY, LETTING ONLY YOUR FEELINGS GO THROUGH
ARE YOU HURTING..?
NO
A WOMAN'S SILENCE IS HER SOLICITUDE
I'M SORRY...
WHAT ARE YOU... IS THAT BLOOD..?
...LOOK AT YOUR LEGS!!
...NO...
IF ONE DAY, SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO YOU HAPPENS TO BE IN PAIN...
...LOCK AWAY YOUR OWN WANTS AND NEEDS
I MUST...
THEY'RE ALL BRUISED..!
DON'T OVERDO IT! YOU CAN STOP PLAYING, NOW!
I'M SORRY. I..
YUNE!
...AND PLAY THE SHAMISEN WITHOUT A WORD.
I'VE BEEN...
...UNABLE... TO DO ANYTHING USEFUL... BUT...

PLEASE ALLOW ME... TO STAY WITH YOU...
SURE...
LET'S GO HOME..!

ON THE SHAMISEN: MERCI="THANKS".







THE HATE... IN HIS EYES...
HE KEPT STARING AT ME. UNTIL THE VERY END...
I SEE
HE MUST HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS ABOUT YOU THE WHOLE TIME.
AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED...
YOU WERE THE SINGLE MOST...
I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM.
I COULDN'T.
TILL NOW... I'D NEVER FELT THE URGE TO PROTECT SOMETHING SMALLER THAN MYSELF.
...I NEVER IMAGINED THE WILL TO PROTECT SOMEONE...
...CAME WITH SUCH A SENSE OF HAPPINESS.
I NEVER QUITE NOTICED. HOW VERY SMALL YOUR HAND REALLY IS.

À suivre.

TN: "TO BE CONTINUED".

Kadokawa Comics Dragon Jr.

角川コミックス ドラゴン Jr.

異国迷路のクロワーゼ 2

武田日向

2009年6月9日初版発行

発行者／山下直久

発行／富士見書房
〒102-8144 東京都千代田区富士見1-12-14 (03)3238-8591(編集)

発売／角川グループパブリッシング
〒102-8177 東京都千代田区富士見2-13-3 (03)3238-8521(営業)

カバー・本文デザイン／伸童舎

印刷／大日本印刷　　製本／BBC

初出／ドラゴンエイジPure(富士見書房刊)vol.8〜vol.14

本書の無断複写・複製・転載を禁じます。落丁・乱丁本は、ご面倒でも角川グループ受注センター読者係までお送りください。送料は小社負担でお取り替えいたします。
この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体とは関係ありません。

2009 Fujimishobo, Printed In Japan

©2009 HINATA TAKEDA

ISBN978-4-04-712609-1　C0979

異国迷路のクロワーゼ

Art travaillé par Ubirata Takeda

■「GOSICK」第2巻表紙

■「ドラゴンエイジPure Vol.9」表紙

■「ドラゴンエイジPure Vol.5」ユネ コラージュ

Art works by
TAKEDA HINATA
迷宮の小径
メイキュウノコミチ
【武田日向】
画集

月刊ドラゴンエイジ／2006年8月号増刊
ドラゴンエイジPure Vol.10 付録

■「ドラゴンエイジPuro Vol.1」The Doll's Girl